

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 11:33 AM
To: 'feldmanj@nyassembly.gov'
Subject: Question: Has the Assembly Committee on Ethics & Guidance been complying with Assembly Rule IV, §9 -- & is it within your jurisdiction to investigate and publicly report?
Attachments: 2-23-17-foil-misconduct-complaint-senate rules.pdf

TO: Jane Feldman/Executive Director – Office of Ethics and Compliance/NYS Assembly

This follows our phone conversation a short time ago.

As discussed, the Assembly Committee on Ethics and Guidance – as one of the Assembly standing committees enumerated by Assembly Rule IV, §1(a) – is subject to its §9. Entitled “Annual reports by standing committees”, the Committee on Ethics and Guidance is NOT exempt from its requirement of an annual report. To the contrary, Assembly Rule IV, §9 reads:

“On or before December fifteenth in each year each standing committee shall make a report to the Speaker of the Assembly of its activities together with its legislative proposals.” (underlining added).

As NO annual reports of the Committee on Ethics and Guidance are posted on its webpage of “News”/“Updates”: <http://nyassembly.gov/comm/?sec=post&id=16>, either in whole or redacted, it would seem to be within the jurisdiction of the Office of Ethics and Compliance to investigate whether the Committee on Ethics and Guidance has been complying with Assembly Rule IV, §9. Has it been furnishing the Assembly Speaker with annual reports of its activities and legislative proposals?

Please confirm that this is within your jurisdiction; that you will investigate whether the Assembly Committee on Ethics and Guidance has been complying with Assembly Rule IV, §9; and that the results of your investigation will be made public. Certainly, I would appreciate if you would furnish me with a copy of the written specifications of the powers and duties of the Assembly Office of Ethics and Compliance, inasmuch as the Office has no website or webpage on the Assembly’s website – and all I have are Assembly Speaker Heastie’s two press releases “*Assembly Initiates Search for Executive Director of New Office of Ethics and Compliance*” (May 12, 2015) and “*Speaker Heastie Announces the Appointment of Jane T. Feldman as Executive Director of New Office of Ethics and Compliance*” (September 28, 2015).

Meantime, attached and below is my yesterday’s misconduct/fraud complaint to the Senate’s newly-created Ethics and Internal Governance Committee with respect to the Senate’s resolution adopting and amending rules for 2017-2018. As discussed, I expect to file a similar complaint with the Assembly Committee on Ethics and Guidance pertaining to the Assembly’s resolution of rules for 2017-2018 -- and the failed resolutions to amend them.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
914-421-1200
www.judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:30 PM

To: 'ephillips@nysenate.gov' <ephillips@nysenate.gov>; 'gianaris@nysenate.gov' <gianaris@nysenate.gov>; 'carlucci@nysenate.gov' <carlucci@nysenate.gov>; 'croci@nysenate.gov' <croci@nysenate.gov>; 'lanza@nysenate.gov' <lanza@nysenate.gov>; 'persaud@nysenate.gov' <persaud@nysenate.gov>; 'grivera@nysenate.gov' <grivera@nysenate.gov>; 'savino@nysenate.gov' <savino@nysenate.gov>; 'valesky@nysenate.gov' <valesky@nysenate.gov>; 'Senate Foil' <foil@nysenate.gov>; 'flanagan@nysenate.gov' <flanagan@nysenate.gov>; 'jdklein@nysenate.gov' <jdklein@nysenate.gov>; 'scousins@nysenate.gov' <scousins@nysenate.gov>; 'jdefranc@nysenate.gov' <jdefranc@nysenate.gov>; 'lkrueger@senate.state.ny.us' <lkrueger@senate.state.ny.us>; 'hoylman@nysenate.gov' <hoylman@nysenate.gov>; 'bonacic@nysenate.gov' <bonacic@nysenate.gov>; 'griffo@nysenate.gov' <griffo@nysenate.gov>; 'parker@nysenate.gov' <parker@nysenate.gov>; 'serrano@nysenate.gov' <serrano@nysenate.gov>; 'squadron@nysenate.gov' <squadron@nysenate.gov>; 'gwinner@kmw-law.com' <gwinner@kmw-law.com>

Cc: 'katen@nysenate.gov' <katen@nysenate.gov>; 'lawes@nysenate.gov' <lawes@nysenate.gov>; 'barth@nysenate.gov' <barth@nysenate.gov>; 'maccera@nysenate.gov' <maccera@nysenate.gov>; 'slagen@nysenate.gov' <slagen@nysenate.gov>; 'jturoski@nysenate.gov' <jturoski@nysenate.gov>; 'loarte@nysenate.gov' <loarte@nysenate.gov>; 'boneill@nysenate.gov' <boneill@nysenate.gov>; 'pero@nysenate.gov' <pero@nysenate.gov>; 'wilkinso@nysenate.gov' <wilkinso@nysenate.gov>; 'garvey@nysenate.gov' <garvey@nysenate.gov>; 'mckillop@nysenate.gov' <mckillop@nysenate.gov>; 'grelick@aol.com' <grelick@aol.com>; 'tomlin@nysenate.gov' <tomlin@nysenate.gov>; 'dpohlid@nysenate.gov' <dpohlid@nysenate.gov>; 'florkiew@nysenate.gov' <florkiew@nysenate.gov>; 'usher@nysenate.gov' <usher@nysenate.gov>; 'burton@bradhoylman.com' <burton@bradhoylman.com>; 'bchristi@nysenate.gov' <bchristi@nysenate.gov>; 'devans@nysenate.gov' <devans@nysenate.gov>; 'mayers@nysenate.gov' <mayers@nysenate.gov>; 'jhernand@nysenate.gov' <jhernand@nysenate.gov>; 'joe@danielsquadron.org' joe@danielsquadron.org

Subject: FIRST TEST of the Ethics & Internal Governance Committee: Senate Rules for 2017-2018: FOIL/records request & misconduct/fraud complaint

Attached is the Center for Judicial Accountability's above-entitled FOIL/records request & misconduct/fraud complaint pertaining to the Senate Rules for 2017-2018. It is also posted on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible *via* the prominent homepage center link: "2017 Legislative Session". That is where the substantiating evidence is also posted. The direct link is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/2017-senate-rules-reform.htm>.

I am available to assist you, to the max, in achieving, non-partisan, good-government Senate rules reform for the benefit of ALL 63 Senators and the People of the State. It is NOT a "heavy lift" – especially as the blue-print was all laid out in 2009 and agreed-to by both republican and democratic senators.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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914-421-1200
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