

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewidth.org>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 11:21 AM
To: 'Alessandra Biaggi'
Cc: 'Jordine Jones'; 'Karen Reppy'; 'ana@senatorbiaggi.com'
Subject: AGAIN -- December 9, 2021 public hearing "To discuss New York State's system of ethics oversight and enforcement" -- Request to orally testify & "discuss", in person

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE CHAIR ALESSANDRA BIAGGI, ESQ.

I have received no response to my below November 8th e-mail, inquiring about the December 9th public hearing which you have entitled "To discuss New York State's system of ethics oversight and enforcement".

As of this date, a full week later, there is still no press release/public announcement about the hearing posted on either the Committee's website, your website, or the Senate's website, nor registration information for witnesses wishing to testify.

Please advise – and confirm that [the Committee's December 9th hearing](#) – unlike its [August 25th hearing](#) – will afford members of the public with the opportunity to testify about their direct, first-hand experiences in filing complaints with the gamut of entities comprising "New York State's system of ethics oversight and enforcement". This includes, of course:

- the entity with ethics jurisdiction over New York's judges: the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct;
- the entity with ethics jurisdiction over the Unified Court System's non-judges: the Unified Court System's Inspector General; and
- the entity with ethics jurisdiction over New York attorneys: the attorney grievance committees of New York's four Appellate Divisions.

By the way, when was the last time ANY legislative committee held oversight hearings over these three ethics entities, thereafter making findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to the testimony of members of the public – based on investigation of their substantiating documentary EVIDENCE?

If you do not already know the answer, as chair of the Senate Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance, as a member of the Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations, of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and of the Senate Codes Committee, you surely can obtain it – and it is your duty to do so.

Likewise, as to when ANY legislative committee last held oversight hearings of the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE), the Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC), and the Office of the State Inspector General, at which members of the public were permitted to testify about their experiences in filing complaints with these three entities – followed by legislative investigation of their EVIDENCE and findings of fact and conclusions of law based thereon. Also, as to when ANY legislative committee last held oversight hearings of how the state attorney general and state comptroller discharge their "ethics oversight and enforcement" capacities – also necessarily requiring the taking of testimony and EVIDENCE from members of the public having direct experience, with legislative findings and conclusions thereafter made based on their EVIDENCE.

Please advise as to the foregoing, so that there is "transparency" as to how we have gotten to where we presently are at – and what must be done to right the situation.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:01 AM
To: 'Alessandra Biaggi' <biaggi@nysenate.gov>
Cc: 'Jordine Jones' <jonesji@nysenate.gov>; 'Karen Reppy' <reppy@nysenate.gov>; 'ana@senatorbiaggi.com' <ana@senatorbiaggi.com>

Subject: December 9, 2021 public hearing "To discuss New York State's system of ethics oversight and enforcement" -- Request to orally testify & "discuss", in person

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE CHAIR ALESSANDRA BIAGGI, ESQ.

The most recent "All Updates" posted on the [Committee's website](#) is for a [December 9, 2021 "Public Hearing: To discuss New York State's system of ethics oversight and enforcement"](#), which states, in uppercase lettering, "ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY".

I have found no press release about the December 9, 2021 public hearing posted on the [Senate's website](#), [your own Senate website](#), or, for that matter, on the Committee's website, excepting as "All Updates". Is there no press release – and are you not inviting testimony from members of the public, with a registration, such as you had for the ["postponed" July 12, 2021 hearing](#), for which I had timely registered and timely submitted a written statement on July 9th and then, again, on July 12th?

What criteria are you using for your December 9th "oral testimony by invitation only" hearing – and were you planning to invite me?

Please advise, as soon as possible – and deem this my formal request to orally testify and "discuss", in person.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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