

## Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

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**From:** Senate Foil <foil@nysenate.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 12:19 PM  
**To:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
**Subject:** Re: FOIL -- Written statements of witnesses, would-be witnesses, & others, submitted for the Aug. 25, 2021 hearing on "New York State's System of Ethics Oversight and Enforcement" & related records  
**Attachments:** Rules and Regulations relating to Public Inspection and Copying of Legislative Records - January 2019\_blue (3).pdf; UPDATED Ethics hearing testimony packet (1).pdf

October 5, 2021

Ms. Elena Ruth Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.  
Post Office Box 8101  
White Plains, NY 10602  
[cja@judgewatch.org](mailto:cja@judgewatch.org)

Dear Ms. Sassower:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email dated August 31, 2021 pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law.

Your request included,

1. all written statements submitted for the August 25<sup>th</sup> hearing by the witnesses who were "invited" to testify; Please see attached.
2. all written statements submitted by others, most importantly, those NOT "invited" to testify; Please see attached.
3. copies of e-mails from Chair Biaggi and/or her staff, in advance of the August 25<sup>th</sup> hearing, reflecting (i) which written statements they were disseminating; and (ii) the designated recipients of those e-mails, whether Senators, Assembly members, witnesses who would be testifying, the press, etc. Please see attached.
4. the written invitation(s) from Chair Biaggi to the Inspector General to testify at the August 25<sup>th</sup> hearing and/or at the postponed July 12<sup>th</sup> hearing – and the Inspector General's written responses thereto, including **the Inspector General's referred-to written "testimony"**, "the last two paragraphs on the first page" of which Chair Biaggi read at the August 25<sup>th</sup> hearing, **which I request be furnished, as immediately as possible.**

Please see attached.

I have attached a copy of the Senate's Rules and Regulations Relating to the Public Inspection and Copying of Legislative Records for your information.

Sincerely,

Alejandra N. Paulino, Esq.  
Secretary of the Senate

Senate Foil

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 3:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Foil <foil@nysenate.gov>  
**Cc:** Alessandra Biaggi <biaggi@nysenate.gov>; Karen Reppy <reppy@nysenate.gov>; Jordine Jones <jonesjj@nysenate.gov>  
**Subject:** FOIL -- Written statements of witnesses, would-be witnesses, & others, submitted for the Aug. 25, 2021 hearing on "New York State's System of Ethics Oversight and Enforcement" & related records

**TO: Senate Records Access Officer/Secretary of the Senate Alejandra Paulino, ESQ.**

Notwithstanding the trumpeting of the importance of transparency by Senate Ethics and Internal Governance Committee Chair Alessandra Biaggi at the Committee's August 25, 2021 hearing on "New York State's System of Ethics Oversight and Enforcement", the [webpage for the August 25<sup>th</sup> hearing](#) – like the [webpage for the postponed July 12<sup>th</sup> hearing](#) -- does NOT post the submitted written statements of the witnesses who were "invited" to testify before the Committee, let alone the written statements submitted by others, most importantly, those NOT "invited" to testify. Is this an oversight? Or is it intentional?

Pursuant to Senate Rule XIV – and in keeping with Chair Biaggi's assertions: "A transparent government is a government that works for the People", "I would argue that transparency is in the public interest especially when it comes to ethics, I think it is actually the essence and ethos of ethics" – this is to request:

1. all written statements submitted for the August 25<sup>th</sup> hearing by the witnesses who were "invited" to testify;
2. all written statements submitted by others, most importantly, those NOT "invited" to testify;
3. copies of e-mails from Chair Biaggi and/or her staff, in advance of the August 25<sup>th</sup> hearing, reflecting (i) which written statements they were disseminating; and (ii) the designated recipients of those e-mails, whether Senators, Assembly members, witnesses who would be testifying, the press, etc.
4. the written invitation(s) from Chair Biaggi to the Inspector General to testify at the August 25<sup>th</sup> hearing and/or at the postponed July 12<sup>th</sup> hearing – and the Inspector General's written responses thereto, including the **Inspector General's referred-to written "testimony"**, "the last two paragraphs on the first page" of which Chair Biaggi read at the August 25<sup>th</sup> hearing, **which I request be furnished, as immediately as possible.**

Thank you.

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