

Center for Judicial Accountability

From: Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 5:46 PM
To: 'Cezary Podkul'
Subject: A Goldmine of "Story Ideas"

Dear Cezary:

Thank you for your e-mail outreach. As discussed, our nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization has a goldmine of "story ideas" for investigative coverage -- beginning with the Commission on Judicial Compensation, which has now morphed into the Commission on Legislative, Judicial, & Executive Compensation. The story of the Commission on Judicial Compensation is a story of brazen corruption at the highest levels of all three government branches, involving hundreds of millions, and ultimately billions, of taxpayer dollars – a story demonstrating that there is NO "New York government accountability" of any significance, including *via* U.S. Attorney Bharara, whose much heralded indictments, including of former Assembly Speaker Silver and former Temporary Senate President Skelos, are simply window dressing.

This story – and the evidentiary proof substantiating it – are readily accessible from the three litigations featured on CJA's homepage, www.judgewatch.org, by the link entitled: "What's Taking You So Long, Preet?: CJA's Three Litigations whose Records are Perfect "Paper Trails" for Indicting New York's Highest Public Officers for Corruption". Here's the direct link to its menu page: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/commission-to-investigate-public-corruption/holding-to-account/3-litigations-papertrails.htm>. I recommend you read CJA's verified complaint for all three litigations, as they each furnish a comprehensive, yet easy-to-read, narrative overview.

Of course, you might find it more manageable and efficient to begin by reading just two letters – and these pertain to the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) and the review commission established on May 1st that is supposed to be examining it and the Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC). For your convenience, I have now posted these two letters, dated June 18, 2015 and June 22, 2015, on the above menu page of the three litigations. The News Alert I sent out about the letters some weeks ago – to which there was NO response from any media – is below, slightly updated.

Psst! What's Happening with the JCOPE/LEC Review Commission, Appointed More Than 2 Months Ago?

On May 1st, the Governor, Temporary Senate President, and Assembly Speaker jointly appointed an eight-person commission to review and evaluate JCOPE (Joint Commission on Public Ethics) & the LEC (Legislative Ethics Commission).

What's been happening since? Who did the Governor, Temporary Senate President, and Assembly Speaker jointly designate as its chair and what is its methodology? How to contact it? The review commission does not seem to have a phone number, an e-mail address, an office, any staff. Will it be holding public hearings at which members of the public who have filed ethics complaints with JCOPE and LEC can testify as to the direct, first-hand experience? Or will it be taking testimony in private? Is it going to be doing outreach – or must members of the public reach out to it ?

As the eight commissioners have relationships and associations with those who appointed them and who are the subject of complaints filed with JCOPE and LEC, etc. what is its protocol for dealing with conflict of interest?

These are questions that our non-partisan, nonprofit citizens' organization, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), asked in a June 18th letter to the JCOPE/LEC review commission – which on June 22nd we sent to JCOPE, LEC, and other public officers, from the Governor on-down and including U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara who, more than a year ago, reportedly subpoenaed all complaints filed with JCOPE.

These two letters and the documentary evidence substantiating them are posted on our website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible via the prominent homepage link “Exposing the Fraud of the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption”. It leads to a link entitled “Going Where the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption Did NOT:...JCOPE”. Here’s the direct link to its menu page: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/commission-to-investigate-public-corruption/holding-to-account/exposing-JCOPE.htm>.

I am available to answer questions and to be interviewed.

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From: Cezary Podkul [mailto:Cezary.Podkul@propublica.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 1:28 PM
To: elena@judgewatch.org
Subject: Story Ideas?

Hi Elena,

This is Cezary from ProPublica. I cover New York government accountability here at ProPublica. I came across your website, and some of your efforts to bring accountability to judicial compensation in the state. I am looking for stories ideas in this area and wanted to reach out to you and see if you had any suggestions on items worth following-up on or looking into? If so, please let me know when would be a good time to chat.

I can be reached at 917 512 0218.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Best,

Cezary