

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 2:19 PM
To: 'ijnews@gannett.com'; 'TPudney@gannett.com'; 'msteecker@gannett.com'; 'accuracy@ithacajournal.com'
Subject: NEWS TIP - ALERT - SPREAD THE WORD: NYS Public Campaign Financing & Election Commission is INACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Attachments: 9-3-19-foil-public-campaign-finance.pdf; 8-21-19-nylj-ltr.pdf

TO: ITHACA JOURNAL /USA TODAY NETWORK

Bravo on your posting, on your website, "[USA TODAY NETWORK Principles of Ethical Conduct for Newsrooms](#)" – to which the below is a MAJOR story, consistent therewith:

**NEWS TIP – ALERT – SPREAD THE WORD:
NYS Public Campaign Financing & Election Commission is INACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**

How is the public supposed to contact the NYS Public Campaign Financing & Election Commission? Where is its website? What is its phone number, e-mail address, office address? Is there NO registration for its public hearings? – the first of which is less than a week away, and virtually unreported by the press.

Are witnesses going to be testifying on a "first-come, first-serve" basis – and how much time will each get? Will the public hearings be live-streamed, pursuant to the Open Meetings Law, and from what website will they be accessible? Will recordings be available – and will submitted written statements be posted?

To enable you to SOUND AN ALARM about the obvious rigging of the Commission's public hearings to favor advocates of public campaign financing, whose inside track was highlighted by the New York Post's editorial "[Why judges will end up writing New York's new campaign laws](#)" (Sept. 2, 2019/Sept. 3), attached is the Center for Judicial Accountability's FOIL/open meetings law request, sent early in the morning on September 3rd to the Governor, Senate, and Assembly, to obtain pertinent information about the Commission's operations.

More to follow. Until then, attached is the New York Law Journal's August 21st print publication of my letter "[A Call for Scholarship, Civic Engagement & Amicus Curiae Before the NYCOA](#)", which it posted on its website on August 20th, here: <https://www.law.com/newyorklawjournal/2019/08/20/a-call-for-scholarship-civic-engagement-amicus-curiae-before-the-nycoa/>, in response to a perspective column entitled "[It's Legally Perilous to Have a Commission Responsible for Election Laws](#)".

As always, I am available to assist you, to the max, in fulfilling your duty to inform and empower the public.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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