

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 8:29 AM
To: editor@highlandscurrent.org; news@highlandscurrent.org;
jsimms@highlandscurrent.org; lsarmstrong@highlandscurrent.org
Subject: **AGAIN -- LEAD: what salary is to be paid to re-elected state legislators Serino, Galef, and Jacobson? Is it \$79,500 or \$110,000? And what about D.A.s Tandy & Grady, whose \$200,000-plus salaries are paid by Putnam & Dutchess county taxpayers?**
Attachments: [6-12-20-complaint-putnam-da-tandy.pdf](#);
[dutchess-6-15-20-complaint-grady.pdf](#)

TO: THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

I was most disappointed to have received no response to my below e-mail, sent 2-1/2 weeks ago. Was it overlooked?

BTW, I take this opportunity to clarify the first sentence of my e-mail asking – “Are you aware that the “Expanding News Desert Project” of the University of North Carolina’s Hussman School of Journalism and Media OMITS The Highlands Current from its [county-by-county listing of New York newspapers?](#)” Although you are not listed as a newspaper – [notwithstanding you do print a newspaper](#) -- you are listed as a digital news site/on-line news organization, but only for Putnam County, not Dutchess County. Is that how you wish to be listed – and, if not, will you be contacting the “Expanding News Desert Project” about that?

Please advise.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 3:41 PM

To: 'editor@highlandscurrent.org' <editor@highlandscurrent.org>; 'news@highlandscurrent.org' <news@highlandscurrent.org>; 'jsimms@highlandscurrent.org' <jsimms@highlandscurrent.org>; 'lsarmstrong@highlandscurrent.org' <lsarmstrong@highlandscurrent.org>

Subject: LEAD: what salary is to be paid to re-elected state legislators Serino, Galef, and Jacobson? Is it

\$79,500 or \$110,000? And what about D.A.s Tenny & Grady, whose \$200,000-plus salaries are paid by Putnam & Dutchess county taxpayers?

TO: THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

Are you aware that the “Expanding News Desert Project” of the University of North Carolina’s Hussman School of Journalism and Media OMITS The Highlands Current from its [county-by-county listing of New York newspapers](#)?

Only after the November 3rd election did I discover The Highlands Current – and then only because the [Institute for Non-Profit News](#) posts a [member listing for New York](#) on its website.

Having reviewed, [from your website](#), what I believe to be all your 2020 election coverage of the three state legislative incumbents who are within your area of coverage – Senator Susan Serino, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, and Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson – and essentially all your other reporting about them over the past seven months – it seems you are unaware of the corrupt, unconstitutional, and larcenous fashion in which these three state legislators have been operating, in Albany – and about what was going on behind-the-scenes of their re-elections.

Consistent with the tenets of [The Trust Project](#) – of which I was delighted to discover The Highlands Current is a member -- are you available to discuss your [September 25th posted interview of Assemblywoman Galef](#) and your articles:

April 24, 2020: "[A State of 'No Money'](#)" (Chip Rowe)

May 1, 2020: "[Challengers Set for November](#)" (Chip Rowe)

July 12, 2020: "[Sen. Serino Fighting Breast Cancer](#)" (Chip Rowe)

July 21, 2020: "[Whom Does the Highlands Support?](#)" (Chip Rowe)

September 6, 2020: "[How They Voted](#)" (Chip Rowe)

August 28, 2020: "[How They Voted](#)" (Chip Rowe)

October 3, 2020: "[How They Voted](#)" (Chip Rowe)

October 7, 2020: "[Candidates Decline League Debates \(Updated\)](#)" (Chip Rowe)

October 23, 2020: "[Questions for Candidates: Assembly District 95](#)" (Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong)

October 23, 2020: "[Questions for Candidates: Assembly District 104](#)" (Jeff Simms)

October 23, 2020: "[Serino, Smythe Again Battle for State Senate](#)" (Leonard Sparks)

October 23, 2020: "[Voter FAQ](#)" (Chip Rowe)

October 26, 2020: "[Reader Endorsements: State Senate](#)"

November 3, 2020: "[Here Are Your Choices](#)" (Chip Rowe)

November 3, 2020: "[Election Night Results \(Putnam\)](#)" (Chip Rowe)

November 4, 2020: "[Election Night Results \(Dutchess\)](#)" (Chip Rowe)

November 6, 2020: "[Incumbents Hold Seats](#)" (Chip Rowe)

November 20, 2020: "[Local Elections Update](#)" (Chip Rowe)

I would also like to discuss two other articles:

October 21, 2020: "[Odell Proposes 2021 Putnam Budget of \\$164.2 Million](#)" (Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong)

November 6, 2020: "[Putnam Legislators Lock Up Sheriff's Funds, Give Themselves A Raise](#)" (Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong).

Please call me *as soon as possible* – as our conversations will enable you to better understand the explosive POST-ELECTION news story – for which I am offering you the LEAD. Attached is its starting point: the materially-identical public corruption/grand jury complaints against state legislators Serino, Galef, and Jacobson that Putnam District Attorney Robert Tendy and Dutchess District Attorney William Grady have been “sitting on” for the past five months – and which, in September, I furnished to all three state legislators, to their three challengers – Karen Smythe, Lawrence Chiulli, and Andrew Gauzza – and to the “local journalism” of Putnam and Dutchess Counties of which I was then aware. The substantiating EVIDENTIARY webpage for the complaints is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2020-legislative/grand-juries.htm>.

I look forward to hearing from you – no matter how early or late.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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