

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

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**From:** Phillip Pantuso <phillip.pantuso@chronogram.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 10, 2020 11:31 AM  
**To:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
**Subject:** Re: Status? -- Local Journalism -- & the 2020 elections for state legislators in Ulster, Orange, Dutchess, & Columbia Counties -- #1 (Ulster County)

Hi Elena,

I'm sorry for the late reply, and thanks for reaching out. I'll confess to being a little confused by your initial email. Lissa is a staff writer here at The River, and since March she's been full-time on the coronavirus beat. She is not the person to contact concerning political or electoral coverage. As for her quest to fund local journalism—are you referring to the Watershed Post, the news site she and her partner ran and which she describes in her "Death of a Newspaper" piece? That site has not been active since 2017.

Regarding your story tip, I'm the best person to contact about that. I'm intrigued about this "single, fully-documented story of fraud and larceny involving the state legislators' own salaries & the Legislature's own budget," but I need to know more information, as that is clearly a pretty major allegation. Can you tell me more?

On Sat, Oct 10, 2020 at 7:02 AM Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)> wrote:

**TO: Managing Editor Phillip Pantuso/The River-Hudson Valley Newsroom**

I received no phone call from Lissa Harris. Did you apprise her of my request to speak with her as indicated by my below September 20<sup>th</sup> e-mail, to which, additionally, I received no response from you or anyone else. Please advise.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)

914-421-1200

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