

From: elena@judgewatch.org
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 5:50 AM
To: 'tjones@poynter.org'

Subject: **The Battle for Fact-Based, Truthful Journalism is Being Fought by a Major Federal Lawsuit vs The NYT & 33 Other Press Defendants. Will you report it?**

Attachments: [no18-1-oct29-2025-verified-amended-complaint-signed-by-zerman.pdf](#)

TO: [Tom Jones/Senior Media Writer-Poynter Institute](#)

The battle for fact-based, truthful journalism is being fought by a major federal lawsuit against The New York Times & 33 other press defendants, seeking judicial recognition of causes of action for “journalistic fraud” and “institutional reckless disregard for truth – proposed by scholars as viable under the First Amendment more than 20 years ago and then buried by them and other scholars, with resulting and accelerating democracy-destroying consequences.

The federal lawsuit, brought “*on behalf of the People of the State of New York & the Public Interest*” by the nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens’ organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.](#) (CJA), of which I am director and co-founder, focuses on the 2025 press-rigged electoral win of Zohran Mamdani as New York City mayor. Above-attached and here-linked is the [October 29th verified amended complaint](#), furnishing all the particulars, with hyperlinks to the open-and-shut, *prima facie* evidence. This includes my [March 14th e-mail to Mamdani](#) entitled “ELECTIONS ARE A TIME OF ACCOUNTABILITY...”, then supplemented by my [March 17th e-mail to him](#), both furnished to Mamdani again when I cc’d him on my [March 18th](#) and [March 20th](#) e-mails to the press. He responded to none of them. Nor did the press – and among my other e-mails to the NYT are my [July 11th e-mail](#), my [July 13th e-mail](#), my [August 9th e-mail](#), and my [September 18th e-mail](#).

Lawyers and legal scholars on whom you rely for expert opinion should be able to confirm for you what will be obvious from your examination of the verified amended complaint, namely, that there is NO defense to it, factually or legally – and that the SOLE issue will be the magnitude of compensatory, presumed, and punitive damages, a jury determination that will reasonably be many billions of dollars. The district court’s unprecedented handling of the case – as reflected by my [December 19th affidavit](#) – reinforces this.

Will you report on the lawsuit?

I am available to answer questions – and would welcome the opportunity to do so.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org