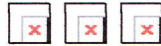


Center for Judicial Accountability

From: The New York World <The_New_York_World@mail.vresp.com>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2014 10:32 AM
To: elena@judgewatch.org
Subject: News from the World, April 25, 2014



April 25, 2014

A note from New York World Editor Alyssa Katz

It's with much pride that I say goodbye this week to The New York World, after nearly three years of probing the deeds, misdeeds, seemingly bottomless data and (often) just plain weirdness of government in this city and state.

I'm moving on to join the editorial board of the New York Daily News and will be succeeded at the World by the estimable Benjamin Lesser, a former investigative reporter for the News — yes, New York is a small city — and adjunct professor in data journalism here at Columbia Journalism School.

The New York World started with the idea that Columbia Journalism School could offer three things of great value to New York City and beyond: a source of civic information that otherwise would be inaccessible to the public, a training center for the school's recent alumni in the challenging discipline of accountability reporting, and a space for innovation in the use of interactive media technologies. The New York World has also served, we hope, as a **model** for how academic institutions can actively contribute to the practice of journalism.

We have sought to deliver on all these fronts, through data interactives like the **Mayoral Matrix** and **dirty supermarkets** map; investigations like our look at New York's **twisted legislative redistricting process**; and nonstop scrutiny of budgets, laws, campaign contributions and any other exercise of power with bearing on the public.

Many thanks are due to Academic Dean Bill Grueskin and Deputy Editor Mike Sullivan, who have been constant partners and inspirations as we've gotten off the ground, and Jonah Nigh in the J-School's development office, who has been the best ambassador one could hope for. Amanda Hickman and Mitra Kalita provided crucial support in getting the World launched and thriving. With Dean Grueskin, former Dean Nicholas Lemann is the founding visionary of the project, and current Dean Steve Coll immediately recognized the World's value to both this university and our community. Incoming Academic Dean Sheila Coronel has provided support in every way possible, and many other Columbia faculty have contributed to the project's success.

Much appreciation too to our valued media partners, including WNYC, City & State, Albany Times Union, Queens Chronicle, DNAInfo, MetroFocus, City Limits and New York Observer.

Finally, a big round of applause to The New York World's talented alumni and current fellows: Pei Shan Hoe, Curtis Skinner, Alexander Hotz, Yolanne Almanzar, Sasha Chavkin, Laura Nahmias, Nathaniel Herz, Michael Keller, Jeff Morganteen, Alice Brennan, Annaliese Wiederspahn, Beth Morrissey, Gianna Palmer, Maura O'Connor, Emmanuel Felton, Wilder Fleming, Allison Maier, Sebastien Malo and Claire Moses. When they left the World, they moved on to some great journalism organizations, including CNBC, Al-Jazeera, Reuters, Vice, Fusion, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and the Anchorage Daily News. We hope they'll carry a piece of the World with them wherever they go next.

Greetings from New York World Editor Benjamin Lesser

I'm excited to join the team at The New York World, and I plan to build on the strong foundation that Alyssa Katz and

others have worked so hard to create.

Moving forward, we will continue to focus on accountability journalism while placing an even greater emphasis on data as a foundation for producing hard-hitting investigative stories, in collaboration with our outstanding media partners.

I have spent more than a decade working on data journalism, predominantly as a reporter with the Record in New Jersey and as a member of the investigative reporting team at the New York Daily News. I hope to use that experience to guide the staff through the often tricky work of digging through data to unearth new and interesting stories.

To keep you apprised of our stories as they go live, New York World email updates will be timed to coincide with the release of our projects and other stories of interest. You can also like the World on **Facebook**, or follow us on **Twitter** for more frequent updates.

I look forward to hearing from you about what we can do at the World to serve you and carry out our mission of delivering high-impact, data-driven reporting. You can reach me at benjamin.lesser@thenewyorkworld.com.

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