

Center for Judicial Accountability

From: Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewidth.org>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 11:10 AM
To: David Lombardo (davidlombardo1@gmail.com)
Subject: TAKING THE LEAD: Championing Good Government by Building NYS Investigative Journalism

Dear Dave,

Following up our phone conversation a short time ago, I invite you to TAKE THE LEAD in making an important contribution to the People of New York by building the kind of investigative journalism of New York State government as does not exist.

The Commission to Investigate Public Corruption is a BIG, BIG story – with huge constitutional, legal, and political ramifications. As a freelance, you have the FREEDOM to develop in-depth stories about it – including how it is being distorted and protected by the press. In so doing, you can powerfully restore to the People of New York meaningful elections next year, when the Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, & ALL legislators will be facing the voters.

Surely, you could peddle your stories to a variety of publications and/or use them to get foundation grants. Certainly, too, your stories can be posted and circulated on the internet, where they can accomplish their good-government purpose – while enabling you to make a name for yourself as a muckraking investigative journalist of New York State government, without equal among your peers.

I offer you full cooperation and assistance. Our “People’s Campaign to Hold the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption True to its Name & Announced Purpose” is accessible *via* our homepage, www.judgewidth.org. Please let me hear from you as to your thoughts after you have reviewed it.

Thank you.

Elena
914-455-4373

From: Center for Judicial Accountability [mailto:elena@judgewidth.org]
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 10:22 AM
To: Miles Reed (reed@dailygazette.com)
Subject: Big Day for NYS Governance: Where are the Scholars to Provide Expert Opinion?

As you have apparently replaced Dave Lombardo, please see the below. Feel free to call me directly.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]

Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 9:54 AM

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Cc: (jstone@syr.edu); (tarr@camden.rutgers.edu); benjamig@newpaltz.edu; Bennett Gershman (bgershman@law.pace.edu); Brennan Center for Justice (lawrence.norden@nyu.edu); Bruce Gyory; Burton C. Agata (lawbca@hofstra.edu); Christopher Bobpst (cbopst@goldbergsegalla.com); Daniel Feldman ('danfeldman1@gmail.com'); Daniel Feldman ('dfeldman@jjay.cuny.edu'); Doug Muzzio (dmuzz@aol.com); E. J. McMahon (EJM@EmpireCenter.org); Empire Center for NYS Policy (info@empirecenter.org); Eric.Lane@hofstra.edu; Frank Mauro (mauro@fiscalpolicy.org); James Gardner; James Gardner (law-jaecklecenter@buffalo.edu); Joseph F. Zimmerman (zimmer@albany.edu); Norden, Lawrence; Peter Galie; Richard Briffault (rb34@columbia.edu); Richard Brodsky (richardlbrodsky@gmail.com); Robert F. Williams (rffw@camden.rutgers.edu); Robert Ward; Seymour Lachman; Tom Gais; Vincent Bonaventre (vbonv@albanylaw.edu)

Subject: Big Day for NYS Governance: Where are the Scholars to Provide Expert Opinion?

TO: Reporters, Columnists, & Editorial Writers

Today's a BIG DAY in reporting and commenting on New York state governance:

- (1) the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption's interim report, was due by yesterday, Dec. 1;
- (2) the Legislature's "itemized" budget request for fiscal year 2014-2015, was due by yesterday, Dec. 1;
- (3) the Judiciary's "itemized" budget request for fiscal year 2014-2015, was due by yesterday, Dec. 1.

Who are the scholars of New York's state Constitution, governance, and politics on whom you will be relying for expert comment on these? Below is my November 29th e-mail to key scholars to ascertain who they might be.

Suffice to say, such scholars as you solicit for expert comment should be queried as to their knowledge of my document-substantiated September 17th oral and written testimony to the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption and subsequent correspondence, as for instance, my October 17th letter to the Commission. Here's the link from the Center for Judicial Accountability's website: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/commission-to-investigate-public-corruption/people-evidence/sassower-elena.htm>, from which you can access these, together with my July 19th documented corruption complaint to Albany County District Attorney Soares – a Commission member – encompassing my documented criminal and ethics complaints to, *inter alia*, US Attorneys Bharara, Lynch, and Hartunian, the Joint Commission on Public Ethics, and the Inspector General pertaining to the corruption of the state's budget process involving the unitemized, slush-fund Judiciary and Legislative budgets, as to which there is NO oversight by the Executive branch, *to wit*, the Division of Budget, Governor, and Comptroller.

Suffice also to say, in addition to querying the scholars about the sufficiency and seriousness of this primary-source documentary evidence, you might ask them whether they would not agree that my direct, first-hand experience, as reflected therein, qualifies me to furnish you with informed comment about the Commission and budget process.

I look forward to the opportunity of providing you with such comment – and answering all your questions.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]

Sent: Friday, November 29, 2013 3:21 PM

To: (jstone@syr.edu); (tarr@camden.rutgers.edu); (benjamig@newpaltz.edu); Brennan Center for Justice (lawrence.norden@nyu.edu); Bruce Gyory; Burton C. Agata (lawbca@hofstra.edu); Christopher Bobpst (cbopst@goldbergsegalla.com); Daniel Feldman ('danfeldman1@gmail.com'); Daniel Feldman ('dfeldman@jjay.cuny.edu'); Doug Muzzio (dmuzz@aol.com); E. J. McMahon (EJM@EmpireCenter.org); Empire Center for NYS Policy (info@empirecenter.org); 'eric.lane@hofstra.edu'; Frank Mauro (mauro@fiscalpolicy.org); James Gardner; James Gardner (law-jaecklecenter@buffalo.edu); Joseph F. Zimmerman (zimmer@albany.edu); Brennan Center for Justice (lawrence.norden@nyu.edu); Peter Galie; Richard Briffault (rb34@columbia.edu); Richard Brodsky (richardlbrodsky@gmail.com); Robert F. Williams (rffw@camden.rutgers.edu); Robert Ward; Seymour Lachman; Tom Gais; Vincent Bonaventure (vbonv@albanylaw.edu)

Cc: Bennett Gershman (bgershman@law.pace.edu); Bill Samuels (bsamuels@newroosevelt.com); 'bob@givemeliberty.org'

Subject: BUILDING SCHOLARSHIP: Commission to Investigate Public Corruption -- & the Upcoming Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Dear Professors, Etc.

This Sunday, December 1, 2013, is the date by which – pursuant to Section VIII of Governor Cuomo's Executive Order #106 -- the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption is required to issue a "preliminary policy report...setting forth its initial findings and making such recommendations...for the express purpose of consideration and enactment of statutory reforms by the Governor and the Legislature in the 2014 legislative session".

It is also the date by which – pursuant to Article VII, Sec. 1 of the New York State Constitution -- the Judicial and Legislative branches are required to furnish their “itemized estimates” of their “financial needs” to the Governor, with a copy of the Judiciary’s “itemized estimates” “transmitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature”.

If your scholarship does not embrace these, I trust you will not be writing or giving comment to the press about them. If, however, they are within your scholarship, please let me hear from you *as soon as possible* about the primary-source documentary evidence of which my below October 24th e-mail gave you notice. To date, I have received no response from even a single scholar to my [August 21st letter to the Governor](#) or to my [August 5th letter to the Commission](#), let alone to my [September 17th written and oral testimony to the Commission](#) or subsequent correspondence as, for instance, my October 17th letter to the Commission, posted as our webpage entitled: [The People Have Something to Say -- & Evidence to Back It Up](#).

How would you explain this? Is there an explanation other than conflicts of interest?

Needless to say, New York government will never be other than flagrantly and systemically dysfunctional and corrupt unless we build honest scholarship that is methodologically-sound and based on primary-source documentary evidence that is not cherry-picked. To that end – and especially if you will not be confronting this evidence – I would appreciate the names of other scholars of New York’s Constitution, governance, and politics to whom we and the press can turn.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:21 PM
To: (jstone@syr.edu); (tarr@camden.rutgers.edu); (benjamig@newpaltz.edu); Brennan Center for Justice (lawrence.norden@nyu.edu); Bruce Gyory; Burton C. Agata (lawbca@hofstra.edu); Christopher Bobpst (cbopst@goldbergsegalla.com); Daniel Feldman ('danfeldman1@gmail.com'); Daniel Feldman ('dfeldman@jjay.cuny.edu'); Doug Muzzio (dmuzz@aol.com); E. J. McMahon (EJM@EmpireCenter.org); Empire Center for NYS Policy (info@empirecenter.org); Eric.Lane@hofstra.edu; Frank Mauro (mauro@fiscalpolicy.org); James Gardner; James Gardner (law-jaecklecenter@buffalo.edu); Joseph F. Zimmerman (zimmer@albany.edu); Norden, Lawrence; Peter Galie; Richard Briffault (rb34@columbia.edu); Richard Brodsky (richardbrodsky@gmail.com); Robert F. Williams (rffw@camden.rutgers.edu); Robert Ward; Seymour Lachman; Tom Gais; Vincent Bonaventre (vbonv@albanylaw.edu)
Cc: Bill Samuels (bsamuels@newroosevelt.com); Eleanor Randolph (randolph@nytimes.com); 'mpehme@cityandstateny.com'; Jon Lentz (jlentz@cityandstateny.com); Alyssa Plock (Alyssa.Plock@wcny.org); 'bob@givemeliberty.org'
Subject: **Links: ALERT: NYS Constitutional Scholars & Political Scientists: "Corruption on Steroids" --**
http://artvoice.com/issues/v12n43/guest_essay_casino

[CJA's August 21, 2013 letter to Governor](#) and [CJA's August 5, 2013 letter to Commission](#) are too important to your scholarship for them not to open DIRECTLY from the “MORE TO FOLLOW” section of the e-mail ALERT sent you a short time ago.

The properly-linked e-mail ALERT, which is below, is now resent.

Apologies for any inconvenience.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org

ALERT TO NYS CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARS & POLITICAL SCIENTISTS!

**MUST READ ARTICLE/COLUMN
“Proposition 1: Corruption on Steroids”**

HERE’S THE LINK: http://artvoice.com/issues/v12n43/guest_essay_casino

sent to you, consistent with my below posted comment:

Please forward to your fellow scholars of the NYS Constitution & NYS politics --

“Wow! What a devastating presentation. Thank you Joel Rose for writing this -- and Artvoice for circulating it. I will e-mail it to reporters & editors, political and constitutional scholars & commentators -- and to the membership of our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), with a request that it be forwarded on, and on, and on.

I would note that on October 8th, [Bill] Samuels, who funds an organization called "Effective New York" and another called "New Roosevelt", held a conference on a new New York Constitution, with the first segment on the six constitutional propositions on this year's ballot, including one to raise the mandatory retirement age for various NYS judges from 70 to 80. In the question portion, I asked how many of these constitutional propositions were the product of a legitimate legislative process -- that is, introduced by legislators into committee, with public hearings then held at which citizens and experts could testify, followed by debate by committee members based thereon, mark-ups, amendments, committee votes -- embodied in committee reports -- then moved to the full Senate and Assembly, with debate and amendments before votes -- with the final legislation of each house then reconciled by conference committees. Only by such process are we protected against flawed legislation. The answer from the panelists was -- or so it seemed -- that none of the constitutional propositions on the ballot had resulted from such process.

We, the People, must take action to protect the desecration of legitimate, constitutional governance by our public officers -- and by their protectors in the media, academia, and elsewhere.

Elena Sassower, Director
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MORE TO FOLLOW –

Essential scholarship, based on primary-source documentary evidence, is completely lacking as to the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption, as to which reporting has been utterly and knowingly superficial and skewed. Illustrative of the primary-source evidence, deliberately suppressed by the press: [CJA’s August 21, 2013 letter to Governor](#) and [CJA’s August 5, 2013 letter to Commission](#) -- hard copies of which I furnished, *in hand*, to Eleanor Randolph, on October 8th, at the referred-to program on New York’s constitution, having previously e-mailed each letter to a huge swath of New York political reporters, columnists, and editorial writers, without any investigation or report. By the way, I directly provided the Commission

to Investigate Public Corruption with hard copies of both letters when I testified before it on September 17th at its hearing in Manhattan. Here's the link to the webpage of CJA's website, posting my explosive September 17th testimony, both oral and written, neither reported by the press – notwithstanding their far-reaching political and constitutional significance, readily apparent: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/commission-to-investigate-public-corruption/people-evidence/sassower-elena.htm>.

I welcome you to call me so that I can answer your questions and furnish further details.

Thank you.

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