

## Center for Judicial Accountability

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2013 1:57 PM  
**To:** Curtis Schick (Curtis\_Schick@wcny.org)  
**Cc:** 'susan\_arbetter@wcny.org'  
**Subject:** NEWS LEAD: "Public Trust Act" -- NEVER introduced by the Legislature, No Senate or Assembly Sponsors, No Senate or Assembly Bill Numbers

Dear Mr. Schick,

Following up our brief phone conversation this morning, here's the direct link to the webpage of our website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), posting our July 19<sup>th</sup> corruption complaint to Albany District Attorney Soares: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/albany-da.htm>. The complaint sets forth scandalous background facts to Governor Cuomo's establishment of the Moreland Commission to Investigate Public Corruption – completely unreported.

It is NOT simply that the Legislature "failed to act" on Governor Cuomo's "Public Trust Act" ("Program Bill #3). Rather, Assembly Speaker Silver and Majority Coalition Leaders Skelos and Klein **WITHHELD** the "Public Trust Act" from the legislators, such that it was **NOT** introduced, **NOT** assigned Senate or Assembly bills numbers, and had **NO** Senate or Assembly sponsors. The same is true of Governor Cuomo's subsequent "program bills" (#4, #5, #12) which he included in his corruption-fighting package.

Did Governor Cuomo not know that Speaker Silver and Majority Coalition Leaders Skelos and Klein were withholding his legislation? Wasn't he negotiating with them, behind-closed-doors, throughout this period? Didn't he ask them what was happening? Didn't they tell him? Wasn't he in contact with other legislators?

This breach of public trust, on all sides – in failing to enact the "Public Trust Act", no less – requires press follow-up. Can we count on you to investigate and report? Or will it be done by District Attorney Soares?

We're giving you the lead on this because WCNY.ORG is a viewer-supported, PBS affiliate – and because the story of the "Public Trust Act", embodied by our July 19<sup>th</sup> corruption complaint to D.A. Soares, is a perfect follow-up to your July 15<sup>th</sup> Capitol Report entitled "*The never-ending culture of corruption*". It featured Susan Arbetter's interview of D.A. Soares and opened with his words:

"We have an institution that is completely resistant to policing itself, to passing any bit of legislation that is going to improve the public's sense of confidence...We go through legislative session after legislative session, and we do not move that ball."

You may be sure that had we known of the July 15<sup>th</sup> Capitol Report before sending our July 19<sup>th</sup> complaint to D.A. Soares, we would have quoted it in the complaint. As it is, we are featuring it at the top of our webpage for the July 19<sup>th</sup> complaint.

Please let us hear from you and/or Ms. Arbetter by no later than the end of the day tomorrow so that we may know whether to move on to other journalists.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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