

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

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Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 10:44 AM
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Subject: FOR PRESS FOLLOW-UP: Today's Gannett Article on Judicial Pay Raises
Attachments: 5-23-11-ltr-appting-authorities.pdf

Today's Gannett reports on Chairman Bonacic's response to Chief Administrative Judge Pfau's report to the Judicial Compensation Commission for judicial pay raises of up to 62%.

What was Chairman Bonacic's response to CJA's May 23rd letter, explicitly sent to him so that he could identify for the Judicial Compensation Commission & to Governor Cuomo, Temporary Senate President Skelos, Assembly Speaker Silver, & Chief Judge Lippman what he intended to do with the testimony & evidence of systemic judicial corruption, involving the Commission on Judicial Conduct, presented by the public at the Senate Judiciary Committee's 2009 hearings – as to which, to date, there has been NO INVESTIGATION, NO FINDINGS, & NO COMMITTEE REPORT.

As stated by that May 23rd letter, CJA's position is that:

"There must be NO increase in judicial compensation UNTIL there is an official investigation of the testimony and documentation that the public provided and proffered to the Senate Judiciary Committee in connection with its 2009 hearings and UNTIL there is a publicly-rendered report with factual findings with respect thereto."

Does Chairman Bonacic disagree? Does he believe that corrupt, lawless judges -- including at appellate and supervisory levels -- should be given pay raises? As stated by our May 23rd letter,

"Such judges, wilfully destroying the lives of countless New Yorkers, the wellbeing of our state, and our democracy as a whole, are unworthy of their current salaries and benefits -- being paid by hardworking New Yorkers."

The premise for raising judicial pay – evident in Judge Pfau's report to the Judicial Compensation Commission -- is that we have an excellent, quality judiciary, discharging its constitutional duties to do justice. This premise is FALSE -- and the document-supported testimony of the 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee witnesses reflects its falsity. That is why the Senate Judiciary Committee aborted the continued hearings, failed to appoint the promised investigative task force, failed to itself investigate the testimony and evidence it had received, failed to make

findings, made no committee report -- and, indeed, has endeavored to conceal that the 2009 hearings were ever held.

The public depends on the press to get Chairman Bonacic's response to CJA's May 23rd letter -- and to our June 23rd and June 30th letters, also sent him. Likewise, to get responses of the Senate Judiciary Committee's 22 other members -- beginning with Ranking Member Hassell-Thompson, and of our other governmental leaders -- all recipients of these letters: former Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman -- now Senate Minority Leader -- Sampson; Temporary Senate President Skelos, Assembly Speaker Silver, Governor Cuomo, and Chief Judge Lippman. Do they believe that judges who have corrupted justice should be receiving salary increases?

CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, posts our May 23rd & other letters -- as well as the video of the Senate Judiciary Committee's 2009 hearings. Here's the direct link to our judicial compensation webpage: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/nys-judicial-compensation.htm> . I am available to assist you with this story.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director

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