

## CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.\*

Post Office Box 8101  
White Plains, New York 10602

Tel. (914)455-4373

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Website: [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)

February 11, 2013

TO: Sherrill Spatz, Inspector General for the Unified Court System (UCS)

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

RE: Complaint against New York County Clerk Norman Goodman for obstructing justice and collusion in record tampering: *Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., et al. v. Cuomo, et al.* (NY Co. #401988/2012)

This follows up my phone calls to your office on November 15, 2012, twice on November 20, 2012, and then, again, on November 21, 2012, requesting to speak with you about my October 26, 2012 letter-complaint to New York County Clerk Norman Goodman. I received no return call from you.

As your office is “responsible for the investigation and elimination of infractions of disciplinary standards, criminal activities, conflicts of interest, misconduct, misfeasance and incompetence on the part of nonjudicial employees of the UCS...”<sup>1</sup> – and such misbehavior is particularized by my October 26, 2012 letter-complaint to Clerk Goodman and by my follow-up January 10, 2013 letter-complaint to him – this is to initiate a formal complaint with you against Clerk Goodman for obstructing justice and collusion with the “nonjudicial employees of the UCS” under his supervision in record tampering in the case *Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., et al. v. Cuomo, et al.* (NY Co. #401988/2012), as I have received no response from Clerk Goodman to either letter-complaint. This includes with respect to his mandatory duty, pursuant to Judiciary Law §255, “Clerk must search files upon request and certify as to result”.

Both the October 26, 2012 and January 10, 2013 letter-complaints should be in your possession. Each was e-mailed to you simultaneous to being e-mailed to Clerk Goodman. They are additionally posted on the Center for Judicial Accountability’s website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), on the same webpage as the record of *Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. v. Cuomo*, accessible via the top panel “Latest News”.

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<sup>1</sup> Website of the Unified Court System’s Office of the Inspector General:  
<http://www.nycourts.gov/admin/ig/index.shtml>.

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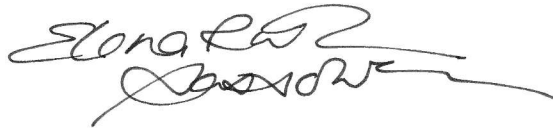
\* **Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.** (CJA) is a national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens’ organization, working to ensure that the processes of judicial selection and discipline are effective and meaningful.

To further initiate this complaint, attached is the completed form that you request for complaints.

My rights – and the rights of the People of the State of New York, as represented by the plaintiffs in *Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. v. Cuomo* – have already been severely prejudiced by Clerk Goodman and subordinate UCS employees. As the second phase of the judicial salary increases recommended by the Commission on Judicial Compensation will be taking effect on April 1, 2013 – less than seven weeks from now – your immediate investigation and corrective action is mandated.

Please confirm, by week's end, that you or your staff have gone to the New York County Clerk's Office, have verified the documents missing from its file of *Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. v. Cuomo*, and that you will be taking prompt steps to compel Clerk Goodman's compliance with his certification duty under Judiciary Law §255.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald R. Spatz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Enclosure

cc: Norman Goodman, County Clerk, New York County  
Phyllis M. Mingione, Counsel, County Clerk, New York County  
James A. Rossetti, Chief Deputy County Clerk, New York County  
Joseph F. Antonelli, Chief Clerk, New York County  
Sherry Klein Heitler, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, First Judicial District  
Cyrus Vance, Jr., New York County District Attorney/  
Public Integrity Unit: Dan Cort, Chief  
Andrew Meier, Assistant Attorney General

New York State Unified Court System Office of the Inspector General

Complaint Form

Please complete this form to file a general complaint with the Inspector General's Office. Following the receipt of your complaint, you will be contacted by a member of our staff responsible for investigating your complaint.

Name: Elena Ruth Sassorner - Accountability, Inc *Center for Judicial*  
Mailing Address: Box 8101  
City: White Plains State: NY Zip code: 10603  
Home Phone: call Work Phone: 914-455-4373 E-mail: elena@judgewatch.org

Information about the complaint:

Name of subject of complaint: New York County Clerk Norman Goodman  
Address: 60 Centre Street, Room 1161  
City: New York State: New York Zip code: 10007  
Home Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Is subject of complaint a court employee?: Yes  No: \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, where are they assigned?: \_\_\_\_\_ Title of employee: NY Co Clerk

Location of Complaint: Clerk's office Court: Supreme Court - New York  
County: New York

Please briefly summarize your complaint:

see attached February 11, 2013  
letter-complaint  
+ referred to letter complaints to  
NY Co Clerk Goodman dated  
October 26, 2012 and January 10, 2013

I authorize the New York State Unified Court System's Office of the Inspector General to use my name in investigating this claim.

Signature: Elena Ruth Sassorner Date: February 11, 2013

Please attach any additional information you may have about the claim and mail or fax this form or copy to:

Office of the Inspector General  
Office of Court Administration  
25 Beaver Street  
New York, New York 10004  
Phone No: 646-386-3500  
Fax No: 212-514-7158