

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.*

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Director
Doris L. Sassower, President & Administrator

BY FAX: 914-694-5018 (6 pages)
BY E-MAIL: croyle@lohud.com
BY CERTIFIED MAIL/RRR: 7007-2560-0002-2642-9589

July 14, 2009

Senior Managing Editor CynDee Royle
The Journal News
One Gannett Drive
White Plains, New York 10604

RE: (1) Retraction of The Journal News' knowingly false and defamatory May 6, 2009 article "*Hecklers try to derail new city judge*"/"*White Plains woman heckles city judge during confirmation*";
(2) Journalistic expose of the issue of legitimate public concern the article purposefully concealed, *to wit*, the corruption of the judicial appointment process by which White Plains gets its City Court Judges, as established by primary-source documentary evidence

Dear Ms. Royle:

This follows up my yesterday's phone conversation with Assistant Metro Editor D. Scott Faubel, who stated to me that The Journal News does not currently have a "Readers' Representative" and that you had designated him to follow-up on my complaint concerning the Journal News' May 6, 2009 article by reporter Keith Eddings entitled "*Hecklers try to derail new city judge*" (newspaper version) and "*White Plains woman heckles city judge during confirmation*" (website version).

Mr. Faubel conceded that his boss is Deputy Managing Editor Bob Fredericks. Inasmuch as my complaint of defamation and cover-up involves Mr. Fredericks – who had direct knowledge of the improper and scurrilous article Mr. Eddings was writing, while he was writing it — I trust you would agree that the complaint should be handled by someone having more distance and independence from Mr. Fredericks. Indeed, as soon as Mr. Faubel's examines my May 5th e-mails to Mr. Fredericks – recapping my May 5th phone conversation with him about Mr. Eddings' then-being-written article – he will doubtless ask to be relieved of having to pass judgment on the actions and inactions of his superior.

* **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. Its administrative/corporate office is in White Plains, New York.

My May 5th e-mails to Mr. Fredericks, which I simultaneously sent to Mr. Eddings, are annexed as Exhibit G to my accompanying analysis of Mr. Eddings' May 6th article.¹ Their importance is such that they are reproduced, in full, in the "Introduction" to the analysis, prefaced as follows:

"The three e-mails are herein reproduced, as they underscore the knowing and deliberate defamation that Mr. Eddings and his editor, Mr. Fredericks, intended by The Journal News' May 6, 2009 article and their wilful cover-up of issues of legitimate public concern: the misfeasance, nonfeasance, and malfeasance of the executive and legislative branches of our White Plains City government, undermining its judicial branch with corrupt judges who use their judicial power for ulterior, retaliatory purposes." (at p. 2).

Any impartial review of these e-mails and the analysis will confirm the necessity of oversight and remedial action by The Journal News. This would include retraction of the May 6th article, as well as a journalistic expose of the primary-source documentary evidence of the corruption of the judicial appointment process by which White Plains gets its City Court judges – this being the issue of legitimate public concern the article purposefully concealed.

I and CJA's President and Co-Founder, Doris L. Sassower, would be pleased to meet with you and your designees so as to amicably resolve The Journal News' knowing and deliberate defamation of each of us and blackballing of our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization – part of its longstanding pattern and practice of journalistic fraud, withholding from the public issues of legitimate public concern in violation of its First Amendment responsibilities, which we can also amply document.

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary
& responsible journalism,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

Enclosure

cc: Assistant Metro Editor, D. Scott Faubel (sfaubel@lohud.com)
Deputy Managing Editor Bob Fredericks (rfrederi@lohud.com)
Reporter Keith Eddings (keddings@lohud.com)

¹ A copy of my May 5th e-mails are being faxed and e-mailed to you with this letter. However, so as not to clog your fax and e-mail, the 15-page analysis and appended exhibits will be mailed to you with the original of this letter. Until they arrive, you can access them from CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org. They are posted on the webpage entitled "The Corrupt Judicial Appointment Process to White Plains City Court", accessible *via* the top panel "Latest News" and *via* the side panel "Judicial Selection-State-NY".

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 2:55 PM
To: 'rfrederi@LoHud.com'
Cc: 'keddings@LoHud.com'
Subject: How White Plains Gets Its City Court Judges

Dear Mr. Fredericks,

Following our phone conversation together, I promptly called Mr. Eddings, but only got his voice mail, on which I left a message.

So that there is no confusion as to what Mr. Eddings is writing about Judge Hansbury's reappointment yesterday: The story that he should be presenting to Journal News readers is about the process by which White Plains gets its City Court judges – about which I spoke yesterday in the citizens' portion of the Common Council meeting, at which Mr. Eddings was present. DOES HE HAVE A TAPE?

The story is NOT about the particulars of the "landlord-tenant" case that was before Judge Hansbury, which is what Mr. Eddings wanted to know about when he phoned me, importuning me to answer why my "landlord" wanted to evict me. How outrageous!

The only thing that readers need to know about that case is what I stated at the hearing – (1) that I have direct, first-hand experience of Judge Hansbury's corruption on the bench – and that his corruption, along with that of Senior Judge Friia, resulted in my being dispossessed from my home of 21 years. Specifically, Judge Hansbury rendered two fraudulent decisions in the case, unfounded in fact and law and knowingly so – and such is verifiable from the casefile record, a copy of which I hand-delivered to the Mayor's office, along with a copy of my perfected appeals therefrom, on March 23rd under a letter of that date.

I provided Mr. Eddings with a copy of that IMPORTANT March 23rd letter to the Mayor, as likewise: (a) my March 20th letter to Corporation Counsel; (b) my April 30th memo to the Mayor & Common Council (attaching my April 29th letter to Corporation Counsel); and (c) my May 4th letter to the Mayor & Common Council. These are a breathtaking WINDOW into the COMPLETELY-CLOSED judicial appointment process to the White Plains City Court. They are all also posted on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible via the top panel "Latest News", which links to a webpage entitled "The Corruption of the Judicial Appointment Process to White Plains City Court". Accessible from that webpage are the substantiating casefile record and appellate briefs DOCUMENTARILY ESTABLISHING the fraudulence of Judge Hansbury's two judicial decisions.

Among the serious questions that Mr. Eddings should be investigating for Journal News readers is whether – as I stated at the Common Council meeting yesterday – such corroborating casefile, as likewise my correspondence, was withheld from the Judicial Screening Committee, thereby rendering its (confidential) report endorsing Judge Hansbury's reappointment, VOID and a NULLITY.

I look forward to working with The Journal News in developing an expose of how White Plains gets its City Court judges. Mine is NOT the only case of Judge Hansbury's corruption. My mother also sought to present at yesterday's meeting as to a case involving here. Indeed, as part of the appointment process, White Plains should have – but did not – solicit public comment about Judge Hansbury's performance on the bench, including by notices in the Journal News and elsewhere.

Indeed, White Plains also did not advertise the vacancy in the Journal News. How many lawyers do you think applied – & were passed over in favor of Judge Hansbury? – the only candidate nominated at yesterday's Common Council meeting.

Elena Sassower, Director
 Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
 631-377-3583

6/20/2009

EX 9-1

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 2:58 PM
To: 'rfrederi@LoHud.com'
Cc: 'keddings@LoHud.com'
Subject: Please forward me -- elena@judgewatch.org

a copy of the e-mail I just sent, as I neglected to make a copy.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

631-377-3583
elena@judgewatch.org

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 3:13 PM
To: 'rfrederi@LoHud.com'
Cc: 'keddings@LoHud.com'
Subject: Addendum: How White Plains Gets Its City Court Judges

I see I do have a copy of this, after all.

Upon re-reading it, I would like to add that not only was the "judicial appointment process" the focus of my remarks at yesterday's Common Council meeting, but Mr. Eddings' comment to me, when he called, was to complain that the copies of the correspondence I had given him yesterday was mostly about "process". Indeed, NONE of my correspondence -- including my March 23rd letter to the Mayor, transmitting the casefile and appellate papers -- presents such personal specifics as Mr. Eddings wanted to know. They are irrelevant, as I told him.

By the way, all such correspondence, as likewise my appearance at yesterday's Common Council meeting, was as director & co-founder of the Center for Judicial Accountability.

Elena Sassower, Director
 Center for Judicial Accountability

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5/10/2009

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Court. They are all also posted on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible via the top panel "Latest News", which links to a webpage entitled "The Corruption of the Judicial Appointment Process to White Plains City Court". Accessible from that webpage are the substantiating casefile record and appellate briefs DOCUMENTARILY ESTABLISHING the fraudulence of Judge Hansbury's two judicial decisions.

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