

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [elena@judgewidth.org]
Sent: Saturday, June 18, 2011 5:02 PM
To: 'Morgan Pehme'
Subject: Breaking News: NY judges seeking 41% raise, retroactive pay from Judicial Compensation Commission
Attachments: thompson-reuters-2011-06-16.pdf

Dear Morgan,

Thank you for your responding e-mail. I will promptly follow up with the two blogs you suggested. Just as importantly, I will be replying, substantively, to Mr. Stern's February 11, 2009 article that you were kind enough to send me, "*Senate Confirms Jonathan Lippman As Chief Judge of New York State, A Good Friend of Speaker Silver, Whose Influence Keeps Rising*".

Meantime, I want Mr. Stern & NY Civic to have the lead on the attached Thomson Reuters' report, "New York Judges ask for 41-percent raise, retroactive pay", which I just discovered on the internet. I have already posted it on CJA's newly-created webpage "*Bringing Transparency, Evidence, & Public Accountability to the One-Sided, Media-Created View that NY Judges are Underpaid & Entitled to a Raise*", accessible via our "Latest News" top panel, reformatted accordingly. Here's the direct link to our "Latest News" page: <http://www.judgewidth.org/web-pages/cja/latest-news.htm>.

Kindly pass it on to Mr. Stern & others in a position to write about it and CJA's opposition advocacy on behalf of the shut-out public...

Thanks, again.

Elena
 718-708-5303

From: Morgan Pehme [mailto:morgan@nycivic.org]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 1:44 PM
To: 'Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)'
Subject: RE: Follow-up: NY's Commission on Judicial Compensation: NOT OPERATIONAL OR ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC on day 76 of its maximum 150-day statutorily-limited existence

Dear Elena:

I am not certain to which article Mr. Stern is referring. It is possible that he misremembered or that he is referring to some of the articles where he has mentioned the subject before in passing (as in this article about Judge Lippman: <http://www.nycivic.org/articles09/090211.html>). I am pretty certain that he has never written a full article on the subject.

As for two blogs you might want to reach out to that has a fondness for exposing stories like this one, I would try Queens Crap (<http://queenscrap.blogspot.com/>) and True News (<http://truenewsfromchangenyc.blogspot.com/>).

Queens Crap is written anonymously, but you can contact the author here: QueensCrapper@gmail.com
True News is written by Gary Tilzer. You can reach him at gtprinter@aol.com

Hope this information is helpful to you.

All the best,
Morgan

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 3:46 PM
To: morgan@nycivic.org
Subject: Follow-up: NY's Commission on Judicial Compensation: NOT OPERATIONAL OR ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC on day 76 of its maximum 150-day statutorily-limited existence

Dear Morgan,

In my brief conversation with Mr. Stern, he mentioned that he had written about judicial salaries some months ago. I would greatly appreciate if you'd send it to me.

I take it that Mr. Stern has not written about what is happening with the Commission on Judicial Compensation – now 76 days into its maximum 150-day statutorily-limited existence – whether it will be holding public hearings -- or about the 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the Commission on Judicial Conduct and attorney disciplinary system...

Thanks.

Elena

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 12:51 PM
To: 'morgan@nycivic.org'
Subject: NY's Commission on Judicial Compensation: NOT OPERATIONAL OR ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC on day 76 of its maximum 150-day statutorily-limited existence

Dear Morgan

Terrific to speak with you – and to engage with you on a subject about which Mr. Stern has not yet written and about which the public has been completely shut out: compensation of NY state judges.

As discussed, I am forwarding herewith my self-explanatory June 13th e-mail to The New York Times, to which there has been NO response. Likewise, there has been NO response from the New York Law Journal to a largely identical e-mail. To both publications, I e-mailed CJA's May 23rd letter to the Governor, Legislative Leaders, and Chief Judge on the date it was written – sending it again twice last

6/18/2011

week to Joel Stashenko, with whom I also spoke twice by phone about it last week, and whose cover-up front page item about the Governor's three appointments to the Commission on Judicial Compensation appeared this past Monday, June 13th.

As for the Legislative Press, which sits in Albany, purporting to cover our state government, there has been NO response from its members, virtually all of whom I sent an e-mail on Monday similar to the below.

The People need Henry Stern's powerful voice of honesty reporting on what has NOT been reported!

For his convenience, and yours, here's the direct link to the webpage of the Center for Judicial Accountability's website pertaining to the Senate Judiciary Committee's 2009 public hearings on the Commission on Judicial Conduct and attorney disciplinary system, as to which, to date, there has been NO investigation of evidence, NO findings, and NO committee report -- <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-discipline/nys/nys-sjc-hearing.htm>

You may be assured of our complete assistance.

Elena Sassower, Director/Co-Founder
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
718-708-5303
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 2:46 PM

To: 'metro@nytimes.com'; 'glab@nytimes.com'; 'barron@nytimes.com'; 'hakim@nytimes.com'; 'nconfess@nytimes.com'; 'editorial@nytimes.com'

Subject: NY's Commission on Judicial Compensation: NOT YET OPERATIONAL or ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC on day 73 of its maximum 150-day statutorily-limited existence

TO: THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Metro Desk; Bill Glaberson,
Albany Bureau: Danny Hakim, Nicholas Confessore
Editorial Board

Today's front-page of the New York Law Journal reports, as its lead "News in Brief", on Governor Cuomo's three appointments to the Commission on Judicial Compensation, **as if there is NOTHING usual about them.**

In fact, these appointments follow upon the Center for Judicial Accountability's May 23, 2011 letter to Governor Cuomo, Legislative Leaders, and Chief Judge Lippman, identifying the Governor's failure to make his appointments to the Commission which – under the law passed last year by a lame-duck legislature, at the instance of a lame-duck governor – operates under statutorily-fixed time parameters: a maximum of 150 days from April 1st. **Governor Cuomo's appointments were on the 70th day of the Commission's statutorily-limited existence.**

When does the Commission on Judicial Compensation plan to have its first meeting? And what will be its protocol for securing information and documentation from the public? Will it be holding "public hearings", as it is statutorily-empowered to do – and as CJA requested by its May 23rd letter?

Attached is CJA's May 23rd letter – previously e-mailed to you. Its serious and substantial content deserves to be reported to the public, including CJA's position 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 [on the Commission on Judicial Conduct & the court-controlled attorney disciplinary system] and UNTIL there is a publicly-rendered report with factual findings with respect thereto.” (at p. 3, capitalization in the original).

I look forward to assisting The Times with an investigative story about the Commission on Judicial Compensation, where **what is at stake, in financial terms alone, is potentially millions, if not billions, of taxpayer dollars**. Likewise, I look forward to assisting The Times with an investigative story of the 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee hearings, as to which, despite the explosive nature of the testimony and evidence presented and proffered, The Times has given no coverage whatever.

Finally, and consistent with CJA's commitment to ensuring that the Commission on Judicial Compensation's "findings, conclusions, determinations, and recommendations" are informed by EVIDENCE, attached is CJA's June 10th FOIL request to the Office of Court Administration, requesting records of judicial resignations based on insufficient compensation, quoting from – and annexing – an August 4, 2009 front-page "News in Brief" item entitled "*Second Department Judge Quits Over Lack of a Raise*".

Thank you.

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

----- best contact telephone numbers to reach me: landline: 718-708-5303; cell: 646-220-7987.

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