

## Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

---

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2019 12:11 PM  
**To:** 'Eric Reed'  
**Subject:** I need HELP in finding a journalist to do the "DEEP DIVE" that your August 13, 2019 article does not do

Dear Eric,

Thank you for your second e-mail. It is concerning to me that you do not view the "imprecis[ion]" of your August 13, 2019 article to warrant, at very least, clarification, either by an appended note or by a follow-up article.

In any event, I interpret your response: "this particular article doesn't have the capacity to go into state-by-state details at this level of granularity" to be agreement that "*How Much Do Judges Make in 2019?*" is an "informational/survey type article", NOT the "deep dive" my story proposal identifies, in its first sentence, by its question: "How about following up your informational/survey-type article with a 'deep dive' about how New York's judges became the highest paid state judges in the nation?"

As you have responded to that question by stating that you are currently busy with "several large pieces...on health reform and the banking industry", the question becomes: how can I find a journalist, preferably a lawyer, like yourself, to do the "deep dive" that my story proposal outlines?

What is objectionable about my paying a referral/finder's fee to compensate you for taking your valuable time to locate such a journalist for a story proposal whose merit and significance you do not dispute? And, if you will not accept such fee, how do I become a "private (non-media) client" who you will help by what you describe as "consultation and freelance writing"?

Please give yourself the weekend to more carefully review what is, by any objective standard, a prize-winning story proposal, essential to the preservation of constitutional governance, the rule of law, and our democracy – and to examine, perhaps for the first time, the explosive lawsuit record before the New York Court of Appeals on which it rests: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/citizen-taxpayer-action/2nd/record-ct-of-appeals.htm>. Won't you "blast" it out to your colleagues?

I would appreciate if you would call me on Monday, at your convenience.

Thank you, in advance,

Elena  
914-421-1200

---

**From:** Eric Reed <[ericre@gmail.com](mailto:ericre@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 14, 2019 3:08 PM  
**To:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>

**Subject: Re: thank you, however -- RE: Things Dangerous "LEAD & PARTNERING UP: Your yesterday's article "How Much Do Judges Make in 2019?" (The Street, Aug. 13, 2019)**

Hi Elena,

Thanks for reaching out! In regards to your specific questions:

I'm not sure I see any inaccuracies in the piece. I can certainly see how this issue might make the article imprecise, and don't disagree with you there. Yet while New York may have a different specific process for determining its judicial pay scales, ultimately this comes down to an act of the legislature determining how to allocate its budget. I'm afraid that this particular article doesn't have the capacity to go into state-by-state details at this level of granularity.

Regarding partnering and consulting, this section of my website refers to consultation and freelance writing for private (non-media) clients. I do not under any circumstances exchange coverage of absolutely any kind for payment. Please stop offering.

Thank you,

Eric Reed

+1 860-604-1559

[ericreedwriter.com](http://ericreedwriter.com)

UOS, all times Eastern Standard

---

On Wed, Aug 14, 2019 at 2:58 PM Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)> wrote:

Dear Eric,

Thank you for your prompt response. However, are you unable to refer/forward this ground-breaking story proposal pertaining to a HAPPENING NOW major litigation at New York's Court of Appeals to your journalist colleagues, particularly those who are lawyers – including upon my payment to you, as part of the “partnering” and “consulting” services indicated at the bottom of each webpage of your “Things Dangerous” website: <http://www.thingsdangerous.com/>?

And, as a professional, are you unconcerned about inaccuracies in your article "*How Much Do Judges Make in 2019?*" Will you not, in any way, correct the errors, express and implicit, which my story proposal identified as appearing in the article, posted, just yesterday, by The Street, presumably promptly upon your submitting the article for its publication and payment?

Kindly review the story proposal more carefully, examining the lawsuit evidence on which it rests – and call me, if not later in the week, then on Monday of next week, to discuss the “partnering” and “consulting” services available, for payment, if not through you, then through your journalist/media colleagues providing similar services. Surely, it would not take you long to “blast” my e-mail proposal to them so as to get things rolling in finding a journalist to investigate and report on the monumental story that is before you, so critical to government integrity and the rule of law. Please, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Thank you, in advance.

Elena  
914-421-1200

---

**From:** Eric Reed <[ericre@gmail.com](mailto:ericre@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 14, 2019 1:58 PM  
**To:** [elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)

**Subject: Re: Things Dangerous "LEAD & PARTNERING UP: Your yesterday's article "How Much Do Judges Make in 2019?" (The Street, Aug. 13, 2019)"**

Hi Elena,

Thank you for reaching out to me, and for reading.

I currently have several large pieces I'm working on regarding health reform and the banking industry, so I'm afraid I don't have time to pick this up. However I'll be certain to keep your group in mind if I need comment on future related pieces.

Best regards,

Eric Reed

+1 860-604-1559  
[ericreedwriter.com](http://ericreedwriter.com)

UOS, all times Eastern Standard

---

On Wed, Aug 14, 2019 at 12:50 PM [elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org) <[eric@thingsdangerous.com](mailto:eric@thingsdangerous.com)> wrote:

From: Elena Sassower <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>

**Subject: LEAD & PARTNERING UP: Your yesterday's article "How Much Do Judges Make in 2019?" (The Street, Aug. 13, 2019)**

Message Body:

The below was sent to you, about 20 minutes ago, via your e-mail address, [ericre@gmail.com](mailto:ericre@gmail.com), under the subject heading "LEAD & PARTNERING UP: Your yesterday's article 'How Much Do Judges Make in 2019?' (The Street, Aug. 13, 2019)". I look forward to speaking with you, at your earliest convenience, & I thank you, in advance. Elena Sassower

TO: FREELANCE JOURNALIST-NEWS & ANALYTICAL REPORTER/ATTORNEY ERIC REED

RE: Your yesterday's article "How Much Do Judges Make in 2019?" (The Street, Aug. 13, 2019)  
<https://www.thestreet.com/personal-finance/how-much-do-judges-make-15046259>

How about following up your informational/survey-type article with a “deep dive” about how New York’s judges became the highest paid state judges in the nation?

It is NOT, as your article reports, because their judicial salaries were set by “the legislature in Albany”. Rather, since 2012, their yearly salaries have skyrocketed more than \$80,000, to be highest in the nation, as a result of two sham seven-member commissions, which – in addition to being unconstitutional for a myriad of reasons – flagrantly violated the materially-identical statutes that created them, flagrantly flouted conflict-of-interest rules, and made “force of law” pay raise recommendations that were outrightly fraudulent.

This has been the subject of fierce litigation challenge, since 2012 – NOW before New York’s “prestigious and selective” highest state court, the New York Court of Appeals, on which appointive “merit-selected” judges sit. This gives you the opportunity – through a single, explosive case in the nation’s “Excelsior State” – to explore not only whether high-pay correlates with having the “sharpest lawyers sitting on the bench”, who are the “best and brightest”, but whether the quality of justice produced by appointed judges is superior to that of elected judges – which your article implies that it is. Such expose would be a FIRST – and on many fronts. Indeed, in the more than 40 years since New York voters scrapped their constitutional right to elect their Court of Appeals judges in favor of “merit-selection” appointment, there has been NO examination by scholars, bar associations, the so-called “good government organizations”, or the press as to whether “merit selection” was “the better way” the voters were led to believe it was. NONE have been willing to examine how “merit selection” has operated in fact (as opposed to the touted theory) – or the supposed “excellence” and “impartiality” of the “merit-selected” appointed judges it has produced, verifiable from their decisions. To the contrary, in face of evidentiary proof, spanning decades, that both “merit selection” and the decisions of those judges were corrupt, scholars, bar associations, “good government organizations”, and the press have REFUSED to undertake any investigation, while continuing to promote “merit selection”, the supposed quality of New York’s judiciary, and judicial pay raises.

That you are an attorney, with a background in litigation: <http://www.ericreedwriter.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Eric-Reed-CV.pdf>, and specializing in “analytical journalism” with a website/blog entitled “Things Dangerous”: <http://www.thingsdangerous.com/>, makes you PERFECT for the ground-breaking “enterprise”/investigative journalism here proposed, resting, in the first instance, on open-and-shut, primary-source, case file evidence, ALL conveniently accessible from the website of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), the unfunded, non-partisan, non-profit citizens’ organization which has brought the litigation, pro bono, “on behalf of the People of the State of New York & the Public Interest”. The direct link to the menu page for the lawsuit record before the Court of Appeals, from which the lower court record, before judges both appointed and elected, is accessible, is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/citizen-taxpayer-action/2nd/record-ct-of-appeals.htm>.

I am eager to speak with you, as soon as possible, about this ground-breaking proposal. This includes, if you are not interested and/or yourself able to pursue it, your referring/forwarding the proposal to fellow journalists, optimally also attorneys, who would. I would be amenable to such “partnering” and “consulting” services as are indicated at the bottom of your “Things Dangerous” website/blog under the title heading “PARTNER UP”.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

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

914-421-1200

[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Things Dangerous (<http://www.thingsdangerous.com>)