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# DAILY NEWS

450 W. 33rd St., New York, N.Y. 10001

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## Mirror, mirror

State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer had some wise words the other day after he created a special unit to combat government corruption: "Cynicism with respect to government these days derives from the belief that there is a lack of integrity in government. Unless we can show the public that government can in fact be run honestly and forthrightly, we cannot overcome cynicism."

The attorney general should lead by example: He can fess up about his messy campaign finances. That would remove one cause of our cynicism.

## CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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*Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator*

BY FAX: 212-643-7828 (3 pages)

BY E-MAIL: [voicers@edit.nydailynews.com](mailto:voicers@edit.nydailynews.com)

August 31, 1999

New York Daily News

Letters to the Editor

450 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street

New York, New York 10001

RE: "Mirror, Mirror", Editorial, Sunday, Aug. 29th

Enclosed is a copy of my proposed Letter to the Editor. The transcript of Attorney General Spitzer's January 27<sup>th</sup> announcement of his "public integrity unit" and my public exchange with him is annexed as an exhibit to the referred-to sanctions motion against the Attorney General in the case of *Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., acting pro bono publico, against the Commission on Judicial Conduct of the State of New York* (N.Y. Co. #99-108551). Upon request, I will speedily provide you with a copy of the sanctions motion – and, indeed, of the full file of the case.

P.S. I have once before had a Letter to the Editor printed by the Daily News – which featured it in a "Voice of the People" box. A copy of the Letter, "*O'Rourke's Appointment Was Illegal*" (2/13/98), is enclosed for your convenience.

\* \* \*

Dear Editor:

Your editorial, "*Mirror, Mirror*" (Aug. 29), about Attorney General Spitzer's creation of "a special unit to combat government corruption" is right in saying that Mr. Spitzer should "lead by example" if he wants to overcome public cynicism. However, Mr. Spitzer should begin by being truthful about his "public integrity unit" -- as to which no press release has ever been issued by his office. The unit is not, as your editorial implies, newly-created. Rather, it is already seven months old

– with a record showing it to be a fraud upon the public, covering up governmental corruption, starting with the Attorney General's *own* office.

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, I was in the audience at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, when Mr. Spitzer announced, "as of today, I am creating a public integrity unit...to root out corruption throughout the state". In the question and answer session that followed, I requested that the unit examine the fraudulent litigation tactics of the Attorney General's office in defending state judges and the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, sued for corruption. Mr. Spitzer replied, "anything that is submitted to us we will look at" – at which point I publicly presented him with a letter setting forth the relevant details and transmitting, in addition, evidence of the corruption of the judicial appointment process to our state's highest court.

Despite innumerable follow-up phone calls and voluminous correspondence to Mr. Spitzer's office, in which I emphasized that the unit cannot "credibly 'clean up' corruption elsewhere in state government without first 'cleaning up' the corruption of the Attorney General's office", neither Mr. Spitzer nor his "public integrity unit" responded. Meantime, in a new lawsuit, Mr. Spitzer is defending the Commission on Judicial Conduct with the same litigation misconduct detailed in my hand-presented January 27<sup>th</sup> letter. This is documented in a motion, pending in New York Supreme Court (N.Y. Co. #99-108551), seeking sanctions against Mr. Spitzer, *personally*. The motion is a "must read" for anyone wanting to see the clearest mirror reflection of the truth behind Mr. Spitzer's rhetoric and his "public integrity unit".



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

Sunday, September 12, 1999

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# DAILY NEWS

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## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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### Who judges the judges?

White Plains: Your Aug. 29 editorial "Mirror, mirror" about Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's creation of "a special unit to combat government corruption" is right in saying that Spitzer should "lead by example" if he wants to overcome public cynicism. But Spitzer should also be truthful about his "public integrity unit."

It is not newly created. It is already more than seven months old. On Jan. 27, I was there when Spitzer announced, "As of today, I am creating a public integrity unit . . . to root out corruption throughout the state." I then requested that the unit examine the litigation tactics of Spitzer's office in defending state judges, but there has been no response. **Elena Ruth Sassower**  
Center for Judicial Accountability

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY FAX: 212-643-7828 (6 pages)

September 8, 1999

New York Daily News  
Michael Goodwin, Editorial Page Editor  
450 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10001

RE: Correcting "Mirror, Mirror" (Editorial, Sunday, Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>)

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

To my knowledge, the Daily News printed the above editorial *without* ANY news story about Attorney General Spitzer's "public integrity unit". Indeed, I believe the editorial writer who wrote "Mirror, Mirror" based it on the New York Times' front-page Metro article, "Spitzer Sets Up Unit to Investigate Both State and Local Corruption" – which appeared three days earlier. The Times' article gave the false impression that the "public integrity unit" was newly created, with the consequence that your editorial writer was misled and, as a result, affirmatively misled the public in his otherwise excellent editorial.

There's a **BIG** story here about Mr. Spitzer's sham "public integrity unit" – and it was my hope that the Daily News would be the first to break it by printing my proposed Letter to the Editor. A copy of that Letter, faxed and e-mailed on August 31<sup>st</sup>, is enclosed.

I do not believe my proposed Letter is substantially longer than the one I submitted a year and a half ago – and which the Daily News featured, albeit edited, in a "Voice of the People" box. I certainly consent to your abridging the Letter, if, in so doing, you can preserve the important information it contains.

IF the Letter is not printed, please immediately direct it to the proper news personnel so that they can request from me the substantiating documentation I offered you in my prefatory note to the Letter. That way, Daily News readers can have the benefit of learning the truth, *via* news reportage, about the *readily-verifiable* criminal, and not just hypocritical, conduct being committed by Mr. Spitzer as our state's highest law enforcement officer, who purports to want to restore confidence in government and to have a "public integrity unit".

September 8, 1999

Meantime, because the editorial "*Mirror, Mirror*" is referenced in my September 7<sup>th</sup> letter to the U.S. Attorney/Eastern District of New York, you are an indicated recipient, as likewise the New York Times and (Middletown) Times Herald Record, whose articles about the "public integrity unit" are also mentioned in the letter. I have already spoken to the reporters of those articles about Mr. Spitzer's "public integrity unit" – and delivered to the Times a copy of the letter yesterday, along with the substantiating documents. My transmittal of the substantiating documents to the (Middletown) Times Herald Record is being mailed today.

Please advise to whom I should deliver your copy of my September 7th letter – together with the substantiating documents. For immediate purposes, enclosed is page 4 of the letter, whose most pertinent text is its footnote 6.

Your prompt attention would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



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

P.S. Today's Journal News has a front-page Metro article "*Spitzer's Anti-Corruption Unit Gets Off to a Busy Start*", correctly identifying Mr. Spitzer's announced formation of the "public integrity unit" in January, but relying exclusively on Mr. Spitzer's self-serving claims about its operations.

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*Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator*

BY FAX: 212-643-7828 (1 page)

September 13, 1999

Daily News

Michael Goodwin, Editorial Page Editor  
450 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10001

RE: ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION "Who Judges the Judges?" Daily News title of my Letter to the Editor, Sunday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

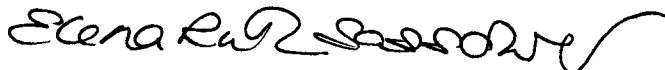
Albeit my proposed Letter to the Editor was sharply expurgated, I do thank you for publishing it in yesterday's paper AND recognizing its importance by featuring it in a box under the thought-provoking title "Who Judges the Judges?".

I would, however, appreciate your advice as to who, on the news side, I should turn to for a follow-up story answering the critical question your title raises, "Who Judges the Judges?". This would require examination of the government agency, financed by taxpayers, to judge judges, the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct – all reference to which was excised from my proposed Letter.

I believe that a member of the Daily News staff is married to the Deputy Administrator of the Commission. I certainly would not wish to unwittingly, and futilely, waste valuable time in fielding the story of the Commission's corruption – identified in my proposed Letter to the Editor as presently the subject of a lawsuit in which a sanctions motion is pending against the Attorney General for fraudulent defense tactics -- to a reporter or editor constrained from pursuing it for that illegitimate and possibly undisclosed reason.

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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