

From: Todd Sage <toddsage@buffalo.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 12:14 PM
To: Elena Sassower

Subject: **RE: Conflict-of-Interest/Corruption Complaint vs NYC Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services Chair David Lansner, Esq. -- & designation of "appropriate, specific case" pursuant to Social Services Law §371-b & 42 USC §5106a**

Elena,

I'm not sure what you are asking of us. We do not have legal representation assigned to use, nor do we have a budget as we are an all-volunteer panel. So, while we may agree to disagree with the concerns raised, we have no oversight ability or mechanism to bring legal action. While I personally feel we might have standing based on our legislative mandates, our ability to bring an action is limited.

I'm just trying to clarify what you are asking of us regarding action items or supporting actions you might be bringing as part of your group.

Thanks

Todd

From: Elena Sassower <elena.sassower@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 9:17 AM
To: Todd Sage <toddsage@buffalo.edu>; elee@albany.edu; mmccarthy@albany.edu; jb58@cumc.columbia.edu
Cc: dlansner@lanskub.com; fjlc@urbanjustice.org; sdoggart@fclu.org

Subject: **Conflict-of-Interest/Corruption Complaint vs NYC Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services Chair David Lansner, Esq. -- & designation of "appropriate, specific case" pursuant to Social Services Law §371-b & 42 USC §5106a**

TO: [New York State Citizen Review Panels for Child Protective Services](#)
Western Panel Chair Todd Sage
Eastern Panel Chair Eunju Lee
Eastern Panel Vice Chair Mary McCarthy
New York City Vice Chair Jocelyn Brown

I am director and co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#).

Three months ago, the chair of your New York City Panel, David Lansner, Esq., testified at the [November 1, 2023 oversight hearing on Family Court, held by the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Committee on Children and Families](#) (VIDEO, at 5hrs/45 mins – 51 mins) – at which I and New York Families Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Sebastian Doggart, not having the approved race and poverty-based agenda of testimony, were not permitted to testify. Following Chair Lansner's testimony and that of

Family Justice Law Center Executive Director/Founder David Shalleck-Klein, Esq., I sent them the below e-mails, with the above-attached October 25, 2023 “Corruption Complaint against Judges, Government-Attorneys, & Government-Retained Attorneys Arising from a Fraudulent, Culturally-Biased Child Abuse/Neglect Petition against Innocent Parents”.

The only response I received, from Chair Lansner, was on November 8, 2023, to my initial e-mail to him of that same date – and to which I replied by a November 9, 2023 e-mail questioning why he had not advised me that he “would be forwarding the complaint to the chair and ALL members of the Western Panel, whose geographic area is Monroe County and the region encompassed by the Appellate Division, Fourth Department” I asked whether he did not believe that:

“the Western Panel should be reviewing it and taking appropriate action – pronto. And what about the chair and ALL members of the Eastern Panel and ALL members of the New York City Panel? Isn’t the EVIDENCE of corruption and fraud particularized by the complaint sufficiently horrifying and high-level to require their involvement, as well?”

I further stated:

“The ONLY explanation I can fathom is that you are disabled from discharging your professional, ethical, and civic responsibilities by conflicts of interest, in which case, at very least, your obligation is to so-disclose to the members of the three New York State Citizen Review Panels for Protective Services and to recuse yourself from the review and action that is their statutory charge.

Please advise, so that I may know how to proceed.”

Chair Lansner did not deny the foregoing – and, in fact, did not respond to my November 9, 2023 e-mail, or to my two subsequent e-mails, on November 17, 2023 and December 1, 2023.

I am, therefore, turning to you directly with this complaint against Chair Lansner for his conflict-of-interest-driven corrupting of his office as chair of the New York City Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services. Please confirm that he did not furnish you with the October 25, 2023 complaint – and advise as to how you will be handling it, consistent with your duties pursuant to [Social Services Law §371-b, ¶3](#). Is it not obvious that the complaint, starting with the [Independent Expert Report](#) on which it rests, is a monumental “appropriate, specific case[]” from which to “evaluate the extent to which the agencies [of New York state and local governance] are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities in accordance with: (a) the state plan established pursuant to [42 USC §5106a\(b\)](#); (b) the child protection standards set forth in [42 USC §5106a\(b\)](#); and (c) any other criteria that the panel considers important to ensure the protection of children”?

I am available to answer all your questions and to update you as to the status of the October 25, 2023 complaint – and would look forward to doing so, under oath.

Meantime, Chair Lansner and attorney Shalleck-Klein are being cc’d so that they can explain their conduct reflected by the below e-mails.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 9:09 AM
To: 'dlansner@lanskub.com' <dlansner@lanskub.com>
Cc: 'fjlc@urbanjustice.org' <fjlc@urbanjustice.org>

Subject: LAST TIME -- CJA's October 25, 2023 Corruption Complaint...Arising from a Fraudulent, Culturally-Biased Abuse/Neglect Petition against Innocent Parents

Dear Mr. Lansner,

Were you NOT planning to respond to my below November 9th e-mail, about which I reminded you by my below November 17th e-mail?

And is it NOT concerning to you that I have received NO response from Mr. Shalleck-Klein to my five below e-mails?

How do you explain this?

Please advise IMMEDIATELY.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:26 PM
To: 'dlansner@lanskub.com' <dlansner@lanskub.com>; 'fjlc@urbanjustice.org' <fjlc@urbanjustice.org>

Subject: AGAIN -- CJA's October 25, 2023 Corruption Complaint...Arising from a Fraudulent, Culturally-Biased Abuse/Neglect Petition against Innocent Parents

Dear Mr. Lansner,

I have received no response from you to my below November 9th e-mail. Is this because you have not responded? If so, why is that?

I also have still received no response from Mr. Shalleck-Klein. Is this concerning to you? By this now 5th e-mail to him, I, likewise, request the reason.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 9:13 AM
To: 'dlansner@lanskub.com' <dlansner@lanskub.com>
Cc: 'fjlc@urbanjustice.org' <fjlc@urbanjustice.org>

Subject: CJA's October 25, 2023 Corruption Complaint...Arising from a Fraudulent, Culturally-Biased Abuse/Neglect Petition against Innocent Parents

Dear Mr. Lansner,

While I thank you for your below e-mail, I do not think it is an appropriate response to my above October 25, 2023 “Corruption Complaint against Judges, Government-Attorneys, & Government-Retained Attorneys Arising from a Fraudulent, Culturally-Biased Child Abuse/Neglect Petition against Innocent Parents” – and certainly not in your capacity as chair of the New York City Panel of the [New York State Citizen Review Panels for Protective Services](#) whose [federally](#) and [state](#)-mandated purpose is to “examine the policies, procedures, and practices of the State and social services districts and, where appropriate, specific cases”.

I asked you two questions: (1) what are your “thoughts about a §1983 federal action based thereon”; and (2) what is your “experience – and those of other Family Court litigating attorneys – in filing complaints with the Commission on Judicial Conduct, Attorney Grievance Committees, and the OCA IG”, such as I have done by the October 25th complaint. You answered neither – and have not even helped me to obtain such answers, as, for example, from David Shalleck-Klein, from whom I still have received no response to what, in cc’ing him on my e-mail to you, was my third e-mail to him.

Why is that? And why, as chair of the New York City Citizen Review Panel for Protective Services, did you not advise me that you would be forwarding the complaint to the chair and ALL members of the Western Panel, whose geographic area is Monroe County and the region encompassed by the Appellate Division, Fourth Department? Did you not believe the Western Panel should be reviewing it and taking appropriate action – pronto. And what about the chair and ALL members of the Eastern Panel and ALL members of

the New York City Panel? Isn't the EVIDENCE of corruption and fraud particularized by the complaint sufficiently horrifying and high-level to require their involvement, as well?

The ONLY explanation I can fathom is that you are disabled from discharging your professional, ethical, and civic responsibilities by conflicts of interest, in which case, at very least, your obligation is to so-disclose to the members of the three New York State Citizen Review Panels for Protective Services and to recuse yourself from the review and action that is their statutory charge.

Please advise, so that I may know how to proceed.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: David Lansner <dlansner@lanskub.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 6:51 PM
To: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) elena@judgewatch.org

Subject: RE: Thank you, David Lansner, for your powerful testimony at the Senate's Nov 1st oversight hearing on the Family Courts -- & for your civil rights actions on behalf of victims & to make change

Thank you for writing to me. Alas, we are unable to take on any new matters at this time. We wish you success.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 9:20 AM
To: David Lansner <dlansner@lanskub.com>
Cc: fjlc@urbanjustice.org

Subject: Thank you, David Lansner, for your powerful testimony at the Senate's Nov 1st oversight hearing on the Family Courts -- & for your civil rights actions on behalf of victims & to make change

TO: [David Lansner, Esq./Co-Chair – NYS Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services](#)

Thank you for your powerful testimony at the November 1st [Senate oversight hearing on the Family Courts](#) – and the civil rights actions you have brought on behalf of victims and to make change.

I am the director and co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#), which, for decades, has been bringing strategic litigations “on behalf of the People of the State of New York & the Public Interest”. Indeed, I believe that because those litigations so-devastatingly particularized the EVIDENCE of New York’s corrupted courts – and of the collusion and cover-up of those charged with oversight, such as the senators – that I was denied my request to testify about “[Family Court corruption, covered up by supervisory, appellate, & ethics authorities & other courts, etc.](#)” at the November 1st hearing.

You can assess my testimonial capacity about Monroe County Family Court, covered up by Monroe County Supreme Court & the Appellate Division, Fourth Department – and Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters Rivera’s knowledge thereof, prior to testifying at the November 1st hearing – by the above-attached October 25, 2023 complaint, which I sent, expressly for him and Chief Administrative Judge Zayas, by the below e-mail.

I would appreciate your reviewing it – and letting me know your thoughts about a §1983 federal action based thereon. I have requested the same of David Shalleck-Klein, by the below two e-mails, but have not received any response to that question – or to my further question as to his “experience – and those of other Family Court litigating attorneys – in filing complaints with the Commission on Judicial Conduct, Attorney Grievance Committees, and the OCA IG.” I’d be grateful for your response to this, as well.

Please call me, when convenient.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 2:29 PM
To: 'fjlc@urbanjustice.org' <fjlc@urbanjustice.org>

Subject: **AGAIN -- Thank you, David Shalleck-Klein, for your powerful testimony yesterday -- & for your vision of "affirmative litigation to seek justice for families mistreated" "to challenge and remedy the abuses of this system**

TO: [Family Justice Law Center Executive Director & Founder David Shalleck-Klein, Esq.](#)

I have received no response to my below November 2nd e-mail. Has it been overlooked?

Looking forward to hearing from you, soon. Are you aware that your written testimony, with its Exhibit A, has still not been posted on the [Senate's webpage for the November 1st hearing?](#)

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 9:44 AM

To: 'fjlc@urbanjustice.org' <fjlc@urbanjustice.org>

Subject: Thank you, David Shalleck-Klein, for your powerful testimony yesterday -- & for your vision of "affirmative litigation to seek justice for families mistreated" "to challenge and remedy the abuses of this system

TO: [Family Justice Law Center Executive Director & Founder David Shalleck-Klein, Esq.](#)

Thank you for your powerful testimony yesterday at [the Senate's oversight hearing on the Family Courts](#).

I am the director and co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#), which, for decades, has been bringing strategic litigations "on behalf of the People of the State of New York & the Public Interest". Indeed, I believe that because those litigations have so-devastatingly particularized the EVIDENCE of New York's corrupted courts – and of the collusion and cover-up of those charged with oversight, such as the senators – that I was denied my request to testify about "[Family Court corruption, covered up by supervisory, appellate, & ethics authorities & other courts, etc.](#)" at yesterday's hearing.

You can assess my testimonial capacity about Monroe County Family Court, covered up by Monroe County Supreme Court & the Appellate Division, Fourth Department – and Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters Rivera's knowledge thereof, [prior to testifying at yesterday's hearing](#) – by the above-attached October 25, 2023 complaint, which I sent, expressly for him and Chief Administrative Judge Zayas, by the below e-mail.

I would appreciate your reviewing it – and letting me know your thoughts about a §1983 federal action based thereon.

Also, I would very much like to see the Exhibit A pertaining to your correspondence with the OCA supervisory echelons to which you referred when you testified yesterday, but which is [not yet posted](#), nor your written testimony of which it is part. Also, what is your experience – and those of other Family Court litigating attorneys – in filing complaints with the Commission on Judicial Conduct, Attorney Grievance Committees, and the OCA IG?

Please call me, when convenient.

Thanks.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 4:55 PM
To: 'cjc@cjc.ny.gov' <cjc@cjc.ny.gov>; 'ig@nycourts.gov' <ig@nycourts.gov>; 'cmartucc@nycourts.gov' <cmartucc@nycourts.gov>
Cc: 'NYS Salary Commission' <nyscompensation@gmail.com>

Subject: Corruption Complaint: Monroe County Family & Supreme Courts & Fourth Dept Appellate Division -- Follow-up to Testimony at Oct 13th Hearing of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation

**TO: New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct
Appellate Division, Fourth Department Attorney Grievance Committees (7th Judicial District)
Unified Court System Inspector General Kay-Ann Porter Campbell
Chief Administrative Judge Joseph Zayas
Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters Richard Rivera**

Above-attached & [here linked](#) is my "Corruption Complaint against Judges, Government-Attorneys, & Government-Retained Attorneys Arising from a Fraudulent, Culturally-Biased Child Abuse/Neglect Petition against Innocent Parents". Its "Conclusion" (at p. 29) reads:

"The foregoing long-overdue complaint is being furnished, additionally, to the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, before which I testified on October 13, 2023, handing up a copy of the [Independent Expert Report](#), in substantiation of my testimony as to the corruption infesting the judiciary – a threshold, 'appropriate factor' of constitutional dimension that it is statutorily-required to 'take into account'. My words were as follows ([VIDEO, at 2hrs/45mins](#)):

'Lastly, I don't want you to believe that the corruption infesting the judiciary is only in cases of magnitude such as the cases that I have here presented. I have a, a independent report that I wrote about a Family Court case out of Monroe County, a mother called me in distress because her child had been taken away from her. And she begged me to assist her. Without charge, I, I examined the record -- and I wrote a report that was furnished, it's a sealed file. I think you should take a look at what

goes on, and you should know this is only the first piece of it. But the corruption involving this report at the Family Court level, at the Appellate Division Fourth Department from which you come, Chair Fahey, you need to take testimony. You have subpoena power. You need to – you need to examine the corruption in the judiciary –’

The only correction I would make is to add a reference to the corresponding corruption in the Monroe County Supreme Court pertaining to the Independent Expert Report.

As [the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation’s enabling statute requires you to assist the Commission, upon its request](#),^{fn3} perhaps that is the most expeditious way for it to proceed – requesting that you furnish it with the results of the investigation that is your duty to make with respect to this fully-documented, facially-meritorious complaint.”

I am available to assist you, to the max, in investigating this complaint – and would welcome giving testimony under oath. I know the innocent parents feel likewise.

Meantime, CJA’s webpage for the complaint – which cannot otherwise be accessed, out of respect for the parents’ privacy – can be reached by this link: <https://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/cjc/complaint-oct-25-23.htm>.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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NOTE to Cindy Martucci/Assistant to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. Following up our phone conversation at 3:40 this afternoon, kindly forward this e-mail to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas and Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters Rivera – and, additionally, to the Fourth Department’s Attorney Grievance Committee for the Seventh Judicial District, which does not make an e-mail address for complaints and/or communications available. Thank you.