

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

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [elena@judgewidth.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2011 3:31 PM  
**To:** 'kfischer@alm.com'  
**Cc:** 'wstorey@alm.com'; 'jstashenko@alm.com'; 'joel.stashenko@alm.com'; 'jcaher@alm.com'; 'lharing@alm.com'; 'David King'  
**Subject:** Will the NYLJ be giving coverage to CJA's October 27, 2011 Opposition Report on the judicial pay raise issue?  
**Attachments:** 8-1-11-email-to-fischer.pdf; 11-8-11-executive-summary.pdf

**TO: Kris Fischer, Editor-in-Chief  
New York Law Journal**

More than 2-1/2 weeks have elapsed since I hand-delivered to your assistant, Laura Haring, an original of CJA's October 27, 2011 Opposition Report to the Commission on Judicial Compensation's August 29, 2011 Report – identical to what I had just hand-delivered to the Manhattan offices of Governor Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Skelos, Assembly Speaker Silver, and to the OCA, for its counsel, John McConnell, on behalf of Chief Judge Lippman.

Please advise as to why the Law Journal – which gave extensive coverage to the Commission's pay raise recommendations and to the judges' dissatisfaction with the recommended increases – has provided NO coverage to our Opposition Report, with its particularized showing that the Commission's Report is "statutorily non-conforming, constitutionally-violative, and the product of a tribunal disqualified for interest and actual bias".

Is it because one of the Commissioners – Robert Fiske, Jr. – is on the Law Journal's Board of Editors – as I pointed out to Ms. Haring when I handed her CJA's October 27, 2011 Opposition Report? Or is it because so many other members of the Law Journal's Board of Editors are directly and indirectly responsible for the systemic corruption in New York's judiciary that is the constitutional bar to pay raises, identified by our Opposition Report? Among these, Caitlin Halligan, Victor Kovner, Barry Kamins, Robert Guiffra, Patrica Hynes, Mary Jo White, Alan Vinegrad, Sheila Birnbaum, David D. Siegel, Floyd Abrams, Mario Cuomo – and, of course, your predecessor, Ruth Hochberger, whose tradition of press suppression you have faithfully continued.

Upon my giving CJA's Opposition Report to Ms. Haring on October 27<sup>th</sup>, she told me that our website link to our Opposition Report had already been forwarded to one of the Law Journal's reporters – presumably either Joel Stashenko, who had been handling most of the Commission coverage, or John Caher, who had begun coverage of the Commission's pay raise recommendations upon his return to the Law Journal. I received no calls from them or anyone else at the Law Journal.

If it is not your intention to inform Law Journal readers of CJA's October 27, 2011 Opposition Report, please immediately advise so that I may present this matter to the Law Journal's Publisher, Stephen Lincoln, and Board of Editors. This includes as to your failure to take discernible supervisory steps with respect to Mr. Stashenko's pattern and practice of knowingly false, cover-up reporting about the Commission on Judicial Compensation – of which I made you aware in our lengthy telephone conversation on July 12<sup>th</sup> and by the correspondence I sent you before and after. As illustrative, attached is my August 1<sup>st</sup> e-mail to you, "Thank you for the courtesy of --", to which I received no response.

Should that be necessary, I will ask that you promptly furnish Mr. Lincoln with CJA's October 27, 2011 Opposition Report and its two-volume Compendium of Exhibits so that he may personally review them. For his convenience and yours, I herewith attach an Executive Summary.

By the way, today's Gotham Gazette leads with an article "*Who Judges the Judges?*" by its State Government Editor, David King, which he features as "This Month's Story...". It is the first to report on CJA's October 27, 2011 Opposition Report and on the aborted 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the Commission on Judicial Conduct.

We have posted Mr. King's article on the "Latest News" webpage of CJA's website – with which you are well familiar. Here's the direct link: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/cja/latest-news.htm>.

As always, we offer you ALL possible assistance so that the Law Journal may truly "serv[e] the Bench and Bar" – as well as the general public whose legal news largely comes from what other media pick up from Law Journal reporting.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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cc: New York Law Journal:  
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Laura Haring, Editorial Assistant