

## Center for Judicial Accountability

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2013 4:15 PM  
**To:** Alan Chartock (alan@wamc.org)  
**Cc:** editor@legislativegazette.com  
**Subject:** Your today's article on the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption  
**Attachments:** 10-4-13-letter-to-commission-with-enclosures.pdf; 8-7-13-email-to-legislative-gazette.pdf

Dear Professor Chartock,

*A propos* of the Legislative Gazette's article, posted two hours ago, "[Voters unaware of Moreland Commission's work, but say Albany corruption is a serious problem](#)", by unnamed Legislative Gazette staff writers, herewith resent is the below e-mail, sent five hours earlier, to the Legislative Gazette. It is also now sent directly to you, at your e-mail address, at wamc.org -- which is the only one I have found, there being none listed for you at the Legislative Gazette, notwithstanding you are its Executive Publisher & Project Editor. The wamc.org address was at the bottom of your column in the October 19<sup>th</sup> Daily Freeman: "[ALAN CHARTOCK: Runaway Moreland Act Commission may be worry for New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo](#)", posted minutes before midnight, as likewise at the bottom of your September 15<sup>th</sup> column "[ALAN CHARTOCK: Runaway Moreland Act Commission may be worry for New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo](#)".

Please note that on August 7th, I had a substantive phone conversation about the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption with Legislative Gazette Editor, James Gormley, commending Legislative Gazette coverage as "more substantial than much of the mainstream reporting". This I followed with an e-mail to him, furnishing our press release of that date entitled "Going INSIDE the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption". Mr. Gormley's response, aside from his expression of thanks, was "One of us will be in touch soon." For your convenience, attached is that e-mail exchange, now 2-1/2 months old.

Did Mr. Gormley not discuss with you my conversation with him and share with you my August 7<sup>th</sup> e-mail? How about the many subsequent press releases about the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption that I sent to [editor@legislativegazette.com](mailto:editor@legislativegazette.com), including on Saturday morning, October 19<sup>th</sup>, reprinted below? Have you not seen them? And is it your view that they do not warrant investigation and report by the up-and-coming journalists you are training – or discussion in the columns you are writing?

Please advise.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
914-455-4373

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2013 9:57 AM  
**To:** ahalperin@salon.com; 'Alyssa\_Plock@wcnj.org'; amity.paye@amsterdamnews.com; Andrew Hawkins (ahawkins@nycapitolnews.com); Andy Kroll (akroll@motherjones.com); 'ashort@cityandstateny.com'; azi@capitalnewyork.com; Beth DeFalco (bdefalco@nypost.com); 'Betty Flood (EFMNEWS@aol.com)'; Bill Hammond (whammond@nydailynews.com); Blake Zeff (bzeff@salon.com); blambdin@wnyt.com; Bob McManus

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**Subject: Latest Press Reporting on the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption's Public Hearings -- Unsubstantiated by the Commission's Website!**

The below, sent minutes ago – and bouncing back due to capacity limits -- is being resent with only the October 4<sup>th</sup> letter to the Commission attached. The October 17<sup>th</sup> letter is posted on our website, as indicated below.

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**Latest Press Reporting on the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption's Public Hearings -- Unsubstantiated by the Commission's Website**

Zack Fink of NY 1 reported, on Saturday afternoon, October 19<sup>th</sup>, that the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption would be holding "a second public hearing in New York City on October 29". "[Questions Arise Over Moreland's Access to Gov's Inner Circle](#)". This was then repeated, in further reporting, by YNN "web staff": "[Moreland Commission taking heat](#)" – without any identification that the scope would be limited.

Nine days earlier, on October 10<sup>th</sup>, Michelle Breidenbach of the Syracuse Post-Standard, reported that the Commission's "next hearing, scheduled for Oct. 28, is on the topic of enforcement at the board of elections". [DA Fitzpatrick: NYC media would not question independence of corruption panel if they knew him](#)"

**THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE, <http://www.publiccorruption.moreland.ny.gov/>, POSTS NOTHING ABOUT ANY FURTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS – in New York City or elsewhere, including as to their scope or registration procedures.**

Don't you think the public needs to know that the Commission's website has no information about, or registration procedures for, further public hearings – and about the Commission's cancellation of the September 18<sup>th</sup> Buffalo hearing, which simply evaporated from its website, and about the exclusion of much of the public and public testimony at the Commission's September 17<sup>th</sup> New York City hearing, and the

Commission's exclusion from its September 24th Albany hearing of virtually all testimony from members of the public as to public corruption within their knowledge and experience? And don't you think the public needs to know how the Commission has just ignored inquiries and correspondence on the subject – as, for instance, the Center for Judicial Accountability's October 4<sup>th</sup> letter?

Attached is that October 4<sup>th</sup> letter – to which there was NO response – and our October 17<sup>th</sup> letter, protesting that non-response. Both letters are also posted on our website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org) – on the same page as our August 5<sup>th</sup> letter to the Commission, which first inquired about the Commission's public hearings, to which there had been NO response. Here's the direct link: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/commission-to-investigate-public-corruption/aug-5-2013-ltr-etc.htm>.

Finally, in the event you have not seen the video of my testimony before the Commission at its September 17<sup>th</sup> New York City hearing, publicly protesting what the Commission had done with respect to its public hearings, here is the direct link to it on youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1hXstP0Uhw>

As always, I am available to be interviewed & to answer your questions. Below, for your convenience, is my previous e-mail to you, on Saturday morning, October 19<sup>th</sup>, about our October 17<sup>th</sup> letter to the Commission.

**Do you not believe that the question posed by the title of that e-mail “Has the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption shut-down public hearings because of conflicts of interest?” warrants press investigation & answer?**

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
914-455-4373

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**Has the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption shut-down public hearings because of conflicts of interest?**

According to the terse October 15<sup>th</sup> “Statement From Moreland Commission Co-Chairs”, the Commission “will continue its mandate of investigating corruption...holding public hearings...” <http://www.publiccorruption.moreland.ny.gov/press-release/moreland-commission-statement-from-co-chairs>

**When might those next “public hearings” be?**

Is the reason the Commission is NOT holding “public hearings” because they expose conflicts of interest of Commission members, advisors, and staff? To date, the Commission has afforded the public only an hour and a half at a single public hearing – the Manhattan hearing – to testify as to the breadth of public corruption within its knowledge and experience.

The Commission's conflicts of interest were highlighted by my testimony at the Commission's September 17<sup>th</sup> Manhattan hearing and by the testimony of Mark Sacha at the Commission's September 24<sup>th</sup> Albany hearing, to which I gave audible comment from the audience. The video clips, as well as the full hearings, are here: [www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/commission-to-investigate-public-corruption/people-evidence/menu-people-evidence.htm](http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/commission-to-investigate-public-corruption/people-evidence/menu-people-evidence.htm)

Attached is my October 17<sup>th</sup> letter to Commission members and special advisors on the subject. It is posted, with my prior correspondence to the Commission, most importantly, my August 5<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> letters, here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/commission-to-investigate-public-corruption/aug-5-2013-ltr-etc.htm>.

I am available to answer your questions and to be interviewed.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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## Center for Judicial Accountability

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**From:** Editor <editor@Legislativegazette.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 07, 2013 1:05 PM  
**To:** Center for Judicial Accountability  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS RELEASE: Going INSIDE the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption

Thank you Elena  
One of us will be in touch soon.  
Thanks for thinking of us  
James

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 07, 2013 12:06 PM  
**To:** Editor  
**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE: Going INSIDE the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption

**ATT: James Gormley, Editor/Legislative Gazette**

As discussed, the Legislative Gazette's coverage of the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption has actually been more substantial than much of the mainstream reporting. Now, it's time for an inside look at the Commission. The within press release will enable you to do that.

Please feel free to call with any questions – or have your reporters call. It's a big, explosive story.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
914-455-4373

**August 7, 2013**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Going INSIDE the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption**

Have you been on the website of the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption, [www.publiccorruption.moreland.ny.gov](http://www.publiccorruption.moreland.ny.gov)? It has a button with a phone number for "TIPS". It also has a "PUBLIC COMMENT" button for e-mail. How is the Commission handling these "TIPS" and "PUBLIC COMMENT"? And what is its protocol for conflict of interest by its members, special advisors, and staff?

These are among the questions asked by our August 5<sup>th</sup> letter to the Commission's Executive Director, based on our direct, first-hand experience with the Commission in the three weeks since contact information became available for it.

The letter, also sent to the Commission's three co-chairs and to Commission member Albany District Attorney David Soares, is posted on our website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), on a webpage bearing the same title as the letter: "**Keeping the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption True to its Name & Announced Purpose**".

Here's the direct link: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/commission-on-public-corruption.htm> – from which you can also access the **readily-verifiable video and documentary proof**, furnished to the Commission three weeks ago, of flagrant corruption infesting New York's three state government branches, involving Governor Cuomo and Attorney General Schneiderman directly and fraudulent judicial pay raises whose cost to New York taxpayers is approximately \$70 million with this year's budget – a figure that includes the statutorily-linked raises in district attorney salaries.

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