

Center for Judicial Accountability

From: Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 2:26 PM
To: (ddadey@citizensunion.org)
Cc: 'rloza@citizensunion.org'; twerber@citizensunion.org; 'dking@gothamgazette.com'; bmax@gothamgazette.com
Subject: AGAIN: Lawsuit challenge to the constitutionality & lawfulness of NYS' budget "process" -- including 3-men-in-a-room budget deal-making
Attachments: 3-28-16-press-release-letterhead.pdf

Dear Dick,

This follows up my phone conversation earlier this afternoon with your assistant Rosa, who stated you were out of the office today.

Have you reviewed CJA's lawsuit challenge to the constitutionality and lawfulness of the NYS budget? What is your opinion? Can we count on Citizens Union to file an *amicus curiae* brief or move to intervene? How about other assistance, as, for instance, building organizational support, building scholarship, and getting press coverage. What about a write-up in the Gotham Gazette – surely easily accomplished.

Time is of the essence. Please let me hear from you, as soon as possible – particularly with regard to the 12th, 13th, and 16th causes of action.

For your convenience, the first e-mail I sent you last week is below – and the press release that accompanied it is attached.

Thank you.

Elena
914-421-1200

From: Center for Judicial Accountability [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 6:36 PM
To: 'Blair Horner (bhorner@nypirg.org)'; 'Blair Horner (Horner106@gmail.com)'; 'lawrence.norden@nyu.edu'; 'denora.getachew@nyu.edu'; 'Barbara Bartoletti (bbheck1@yahoo.com)'; 'lwvny@lwvny.org'; 'Susan Lerner (slerner@commoncause.org)'; 'pkatze@commoncause.org'; (ddadey@citizensunion.org); (rfauss@citizensunion.org); 'twerber@citizensunion.org'; 'jkaehny@reinventalbany.org'

Subject: Lawsuit challenge to the constitutionality & lawfulness of NYS' budget "process" -- including 3-men-in-a-room budget deal-making

Dear Blair, Larry, Barbara, Susan, Dick, and John,

This follows up my phone calls and voice mail messages, advising that our nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA,) has brought what appears to be the first-ever legal challenge to the constitutionality of "three-men-in-a-room" budget deal-making.

As most of you know, for the past two years, CJA has been litigating a citizen-taxpayer action, on behalf of the People of the State of New York and public interest, challenging the constitutionality and lawfulness of the judiciary and legislative budgets for fiscal years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 and the Governor's budget bills embracing them. Last Wednesday,

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CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, posts the record of the entire two years of litigation in the case. It is accessible from our prominent homepage link: "CJA's Citizen-Taxpayer Action to End NYS' Corrupt Budget 'Process' & Unconstitutional 'Three Men in a Room' Governance". For your convenience, here's the direct link to the March 23, 2016 verified second supplemental complaint: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/3-23-16-osc-2nd-supp-complaint.htm>.

We would greatly benefit from your comments and suggestions – and not only with respect to the sixteenth cause of action, but with respect to the other fifteen causes of action. Indeed, as the cause of good government would best be served by your *amicus curiae* assistance/intervention in the citizen-taxpayer action, I respectfully ask that you deem this e-mail my request for same.

Meantime, attached is the press release I have begun to circulate. Kindly bring it to the attention of your many media contacts – and, in the case of Citizens Union, which has its own in-house "Gotham Gazette", that it be submitted for coverage. In any event, I trust you will have no objection if I invite such members of the media who contact me in response to the press release to contact you for further informed comment about the case.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
914-421-1200
www.judgewatch.org

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