

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 8:47 PM
To: 'legal@propublica.org'
Subject: **Federal Lawsuit vs ProPublica, inter alia, for determination of June 16, 2023 complaint of its violations of conflict of interest rules & journalism codes of conduct, 501(c)(3) proscriptions on partisanship, & fraud**

Attachments: [cja-complaint-oct-8-2025-corrected.pdf](#)

Per the "Out of office" e-mail from General Counsel Kutner stating:

"I'm out of the office on leave until November and will be significantly delayed in responding to emails. For urgent matters, please email legal@propublica.org."

See my below e-mail with the above-attached October 8th federal complaint against you.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Plaintiff *Pro Se*
914-421-1200

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 7:19 PM
To: 'stephen.engelberg@propublica.org' <stephen.engelberg@propublica.org>; 'Charles.Ornstein@propublica.org' <Charles.Ornstein@propublica.org>; 'ginger.thompson@propublica.org' <ginger.thompson@propublica.org>; 'Tracy.Weber@propublica.org' <Tracy.Weber@propublica.org>; 'alexandra.zayas@propublica.org' <alexandra.zayas@propublica.org>; 'sarah.blustain@propublica.org' <sarah.blustain@propublica.org>; 'talía.buford@propublica.org' <talía.buford@propublica.org>; 'Alison.Kodjak@ProPublica.org' <Alison.Kodjak@ProPublica.org>; 'Diego.Sorbara@propublica.org' <Diego.Sorbara@propublica.org>
Cc: 'eric.umansky@propublica.org' <eric.umansky@propublica.org>; 'Jesse.Eisinger@propublica.org' <Jesse.Eisinger@propublica.org>; 'justin@propublica.org' <justin@propublica.org>; 'joaquin.sapien@propublica.org' <joaquin.sapien@propublica.org>; 'Lynn.Dombek@propublica.org' <Lynn.Dombek@propublica.org>; 'joshua.kaplan@propublica.org' <joshua.kaplan@propublica.org>; 'andy.kroll@propublica.org' <andy.kroll@propublica.org>; 'T.Christian.Miller@propublica.org' <T.Christian.Miller@propublica.org>; 'James.Bandler@propublica.org' <James.Bandler@propublica.org>; 'pamela.colloff@propublica.org' <pamela.colloff@propublica.org>; 'tips@propublica.org' <tips@propublica.org>; 'Jeremy.Kutner@propublica.org' <Jeremy.Kutner@propublica.org>

Subject: Federal Lawsuit vs ProPublica, inter alia, for determination of June 16, 2023 complaint of its violations of conflict of interest rules & journalism codes of conduct, 501(c)(3) proscriptions on partisanship, & fraud

TO: [ProPublica Officers](#)

Stephen Engelberg, Editor in Chief
Robin Sparkman, President
Charles Ornstein, Managing Editor/Local
Ginger Thompson, Managing Editor
Tracy Weber, Managing Editor
Alexandra Zayas, Deputy Managing Editor
Sarah Blustain, Assistant Managing Editor

Talia Buford, Assistant Managing Editor
Alison Fitzgerald Kodjak, Assistant Managing Editor
Diego Sorbara, Assistant Managing Editor

I received not a single response from you or from any of your reporters to whom I sent my below September 16th e-mail “NEWS TIP-ALERT: NEWS DESERT -- The Unreported Story of Mamdani's Corruption as a NYS assemblyman -- A Scandal He Cannot Survive. Will you report it?”. How do you explain that, consistent to what you purport about yourselves and your First Amendment responsibilities?

So that you can account for this latest demonstration of ProPublica’s conflict-of-interest-driven, flagrant betrayal of what you purport to be – chronicled, for example, by the [June 16, 2023 complaint I filed against you to the Institute for NonProfit News \(INN\)](#), to which you are a member – I have commenced a federal lawsuit suing you, based on my [years of interaction with you](#) – and *expressly* seeking, by its third cause of action, determination of the three issues the June 16, 2023 complaint raised against you, to which you did not respond and which INN did not determine, establishing your fraud upon the public, contributors, and taxpayers. This includes your representation, on your “[Local Initiatives](#)” webpage, that “As a New York-based news organization, we have also long covered accountability issues in our own backyard” and your [August 8, 2018 announcement](#) about “specifically looking for accountability stories emanating from state capitals, from the governor’s mansion to the legislature, to the work of state agencies”.

Above-attached and here linked is the lawsuit’s [October 8th verified complaint](#).

Pursuant to [Rule 4\(d\) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#), you have “a duty to avoid unnecessary expenses of serving the summons” and I, as plaintiff, may request that you “waive service of [the] summons”, which I am required to do by mail, enclosing a copy of the complaint, two copies of the waiver form and a stamped return envelope.

As a benefit of your timely return of the waiver, you get 60 days from the date of my mailed request within which to answer the complaint, rather than 21 days from the date of physical/personal service – and your waiving service of the summons does not waive any objection to personal jurisdiction or to venue. If, “without good cause”, you fail to sign and return the waiver, “the court must impose” upon you “the expenses later incurred in making service” and “the reasonable expenses, including attorney’s fees, of any motion required to collect expenses”. “‘Good cause’ does not include a belief that the lawsuit is groundless, or that it has been brought in an improper venue, or that the court has no jurisdiction over this matter or over [you]”.

I will mail my written request for waiver to the address posted on your “[Contact](#)” page, 155 Avenue of the Americas, 13th Floor, New York, New York, 10013 – and will put it to the attention of [your general counsel, Jeremy Kutner](#), whose e-mail address is not posted on ProPublica’s website, as yours are, but which I have from my past interactions with you, including pertaining to the [June 16, 2023 complaint](#). He is herein cc’d.

Thank you.

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

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 8:04 PM
To: 'stephen.engelberg@propublica.org' <stephen.engelberg@propublica.org>;
'Charles.Ornstein@propublica.org' <Charles.Ornstein@propublica.org>;
'ginger.thompson@propublica.org' <ginger.thompson@propublica.org>; 'Tracy.Weber@propublica.org'
<Tracy.Weber@propublica.org>; 'alexandra.zayas@propublica.org' <alexandra.zayas@propublica.org>;
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Subject: NEWS TIP-ALERT: NEWS DESERT -- The Unreported Story of Mamdani's Corruption as a NYS assemblyman -- A Scandal He Cannot Survive. Will you report it?

TO: [ProPublica](#)

There has been NO reporting of Mamdani's corruption as a NYS assemblyman, destroying constitutional, lawful governance and causing vast injury to the People of New York – the EVIDENCE of which The New York Times and other New York press have had since before his June 24th Democratic primary win and since. This is summarized, with EVIDENTIARY links, by the above-attached and below linked:

- [NEWS TIP/ALERT](#): “Mamdani Can’t Be Elected NYC Mayor, Because He Must Be Indicted & Will Be Convicted of Corruption, as a NYS Assemblyman” (Sept 4th);
- [“MOBILIZING NEW YORK’S JEWISH, PRO-ISRAEL & OTHER COMMUNITIES” announcement](#): “SPREAD THE WORD – Mamdani’s Win as NYC Mayor is being Rigged by the NYT & Other NY Press, Concealing his Corruption as a NYS Assemblyman – A Scandal He Cannot Survive” (August 24th).

Take your pick.

Will you report it?

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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elena@judgewatch.org