

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 12, 2025 11:40 AM
To: 'MKenny@buffnews.com'; 'elicata@buffnews.com';
'mmcandrew@buffnews.com'; 'PLakamp@buffnews.com';
'BAndriatch@buffnews.com'
Cc: 'rgavin@buffnews.com'; 'DHerbeck@buffnews.com'; 'toshei@buffnews.com';
'JZremski@buffnews.com'
Subject: **Federal Lawsuit Suing The Buffalo News for Corruption-Abetting, Election-Rigging, Journalistic Fraud, etc.**
Attachments: cja-complaint-oct-8-2025-corrected.pdf

TO: [THE BUFFALO NEWS](#)

Editor in Chief Margaret Kenny Gianola
Editorial Writer Elizabeth Licata
Watchdog Team Editor Mike McAndrew
Enterprise Editor Patrick Lakamp
Assistant Managing Editor/Local News Bruce Andriatch

I trust your [Albany LCA reporter, Robert Gavin](#), has informed you of the federal lawsuit I commenced against the LCA, [The Buffalo News](#), and other NY press for corruption-abetting, election-rigging, journalistic fraud, of which I apprised LCA reporters by an [October 8th e-mail](#).

Below, with the above-attached, is the further e-mail I sent them a short time ago entitled "UPDATE -- & the OBVIOUS legal advice your counsel should be giving you concerning CJA, et al. v. LCA, et al. & your First Amendment responsibilities, journalistic duties, & your P.R. about yourselves". As pertains to [The Buffalo News](#), the evidence on which the [October 8th verified complaint](#) rests are my decades of interaction with [The Buffalo News](#) and its LCA reporters, [here](#).

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]".

Your website and Mr. Gavin's LCA listing identifies [The Buffalo News](#)' address as 726 Exchange Street, Buffalo, New York 14210 – and it is to that address that I will mail my written request for a waiver. Please advise as to the name of your counsel, to whose attention I should send it, and his/her e-mail and phone number, as well as the name, e-mail, and phone number of counsel at [Lee Enterprises](#), whose ownership

of The Buffalo News I have been unable to find on your website, and whose own website identifies its address as 4600 East 53rd Street, Davenport, Iowa.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 12, 2025 8:51 AM
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Subject: UPDATE -- & the OBVIOUS legal advice your counsel should be giving you concerning CJA, et al. v. LCA, et al. & your First Amendment responsibilities, journalistic duties, & your P.R. about yourselves

TO: LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION

ATT: Keshia Clukey, President
David Lombardo, Vice President
Shantel Destra, Secretary
Jon Campbell, Co-Treasurer
Bill Mahoney, Co-Treasurer
Bernadette Phillips, Press Room Manager

Above-attached is plaintiffs' superseding [October 8, 2025 verified complaint](#) in the federal lawsuit against you, correcting typos and other minor errors, with a handful of slight clarifications. No substantive changes have been made.

It was accepted for filing and includes the docket number assigned to the case, 25-CV-8370. A hard copy will be sent to you with my written request for your consent to waiver of service, as summarized by my below October 8th e-mail.

Meantime, you are on notice of the situation and your financial and criminal liability flowing therefrom. Your counsel, whose name and contact information I again request, should be advising you.

Here's the obvious. More than ten days remain before the October 25th start of early voting – and that is plenty of time for you, as “a bulwark for the 1st Amendment”, to discharge your duties by reporting on the EVIDENCE of the on-the-job performance of Mamdani as a NYS assemblyman and of Hoylman-Sigal as a NYS senator – and the fate of my fully-documented ethics and criminal complaints against them pertaining to their conduct in office – because, as my March e-mails to each of them stated, “ELECTIONS ARE A TIME OF ACCOUNTABILITY...”

What does Mamdani deny or dispute about my [March 14th](#) and [March 17th](#) e-mails to him? And what does Hoylman-Sigal deny or dispute about my [March 16th e-mail](#) to him?

And what is the status of my [September 25th complaint against both Mamdani and Hoylman-Sigal](#) to the [Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government \(COELIG\)](#), annexing those three e-mails and additionally annexing my [March 18th](#) and [March 20th](#) e-mails to which they were cc'd, and stating to COELIG:

“Under the exigent circumstances presented by the upcoming elections..., IMMEDIATE 15-day notices to Mamdani and Hoylman-Sigal must issue for their responses to the ‘specific and credible evidence’ of my March e-mails – with notification to the district attorneys having criminal jurisdiction over them, Queens D.A. Melinda Katz, Manhattan D.A. Alvin Bragg, and Albany D.A. Lee Kindlon, to IMMEDIATELY summon me to appear before grand juries to give testimony under oath in support of felony indictments against them, forthwith – because, in fact, the evidence against them is not just ‘specific and credible’, but open-and-shut and *prima facie*, guaranteeing that each will be convicted of the multitude of penal law violations, of which they had notice, repeatedly, for years.” (capitalization in the original).

And what have these three D.A.s – and NY’s other 59 – been doing with my [July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint](#) against ALL state legislators, most of whom were then running for re-election, such as Mamdani and Hoylman-Sigal, and who, in the complete absence of reporting by you, were virtually all re-elected on November 5th of last year – with re-election, as well, of [nine complicit incumbent D.A.s, then running for re-election, unopposed, plus election of five complicit D.A. candidates, such as Kindlon.](#)

How about following the trail to the [Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct](#), to which, based on the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint, I filed a [November 18, 2024 complaint](#) against the 62 D.A. incumbents for their conflict-of-interest-driven nonfeasance, enabling those election results. Among the complained-against 62 D.A. incumbents, the dozen or so who, this year, have been running for re-election, such as Manhattan D.A. Bragg and Brooklyn D.A. Eric Gonzalez, with the latter running for re-election [unopposed](#), as are at least six other D.A. incumbents: [Suffolk County D.A. Ray Tierney](#), [Clinton County D.A. Andrew Wylie](#), [Tioga County D.A. Kirk Martin](#), [Yates County D.A. Pat Cassella](#), [Genesee County D.A. Kenneth Finnell](#), and [St. Lawrence County D.A. Gary Pasqua](#).

Why don’t you find out what the Commission has been doing for [nearly 11 months](#) with the November 18, 2024 complaint, to which it assigned 62 numbers, 34-95, stating, by a [December 26, 2024 e-mail](#), that it would “be in touch when there is an update” – and what it has been doing for [nearly 7 months](#) with my [March 21, 2025 complaint](#) against the five newbie D.A.s elected in 2024, which the Commission acknowledged, on [March 24th](#), further stating “Complaint numbers 34-95 (submitted in 2024) are still pending.” Apparently, whatever the Commission had then been doing did not deter D.A.s Kindlon, Bragg, Gonzalez, Westchester County D.A. Susan Cacace, and Erie County D.A. Michael Keane from thereupon “sitting on” my further [March 27, 2025 grand jury/public corruption complaint](#) against ALL state legislators, these including, of course, Mamdani and Hoylman-Sigal.

In that regard, my [February 13, 2025 written testimony for the Legislature’s “public protection” budget hearing](#), to which my March e-mails to Mamdani and Hoylman-Sigal each linked, [expressly for their responses](#), specifies (at p. 3) the Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct as yet another sham “public protection” entity operating without oversight and not doing the job that taxpayers

pay it to do – a situation stated to be unconstitutional. Do Mamdani and Hoylman-Sigal disagree?

As always, I am available to assist you and answer your questions. What are you waiting for? TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Please forward to the highest editorial and management levels of the media for which you work so that there is no question as to their knowledge of the situation – and liability therefor.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Plaintiff *Pro Se*
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
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<jenny@nysfocus.com>

Subject: Federal Lawsuit Suing You for Corruption-Abetting, Election-Rigging "Journalistic Fraud"

TO: LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION

ATT: Keshia Clukey, President
David Lombardo, Vice President
Shantel Destra, Secretary
Jon Campbell, Co-Treasurer
Bill Mahoney, Co-Treasurer
Bernadette Phillips, Press Room Manager

As I received no response from you to my below September 28th e-mail, with its attached [testimony/complaint to COELIG](#) – replicating your non-responses to my [years of e-mails to you](#) – I have today filed the above-attached and [here-linked](#) federal complaint, suing LCA, a fair number of your members, and other NY press for corruption-abetting, election-rigging “journalistic fraud”. Congratulations to LCA for being the 1st defendant in the lawsuit, whose shortened caption will be *CJA, et al. v. LCA, et al!*

Pursuant to [Rule 4\(d\) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#), the LCA has “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 assume that LCA’s mailing address is State Capitol, PO 7269, Albany NY 12224, which is what comes up when I do a search on the [database of the Department of State](#).

Kindly confirm and also furnish me with the name of LCA's legal counsel and his/her contact information. I note that I will have to amend paragraph 8(a) to reflect the officers which I had inadvertently missed – a vice president and additional co-treasurer.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
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Subject: FOR REPORTING: CJA's Testimony/Complaint at COELIG's Sept 25th Hearing vs COELIG &, of Immediate & Election-Decisive Priority, vs NYS Assemblyman Mamdani & NYS Senator Hoylman-Sigal

TO: ALBANY LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION ROSTER (LCA)

It appears that the ONLY press reporting of [the live-streamed and videoed September 25th third annual hearing of the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government \(COELIG\)](#) are Spectrum News' September 25th "[Good government groups: N.Y. lobbyists must be mandated to report campaign contributions](#)" by LCA member Kate Lisa, whose falsity includes portraying COELIG as a properly functioning entity, and, of the same ilk, the Albany Times Union's September 25th afternoon Capitol Confidential "[How New York's public ethics rules could change in 2026](#)" by LCA member Dan Clark. This, in face of my testimony at the morning hearing, as its first witness, particularizing COELIG's corruption in handling complaints, which disappear, without disposition and without listing in its annual reports.

To assist you in reporting on COELIG's readily-verifiable corruption with respect to complaints and its annual reports -- of which I furnished you EVIDENCE previously, as, for instance, by my [January 4th e-mail](#), with its link to [CJA's December 16, 2024 motion and amicus curiae brief](#) at the Court of Appeals in *Cuomo v. COELIG* -- above-attached is the written testimony I submitted for the September 25th hearing, expressly as a complaint against COELIG and, of immediate and election-decisive priority, against NYS Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani and NYS Senator Brad Hoylman Sigal.

As stated at page 6 of my testimony on which the complaint is based -- and as I materially stated at the hearing:

"Under the exigent circumstances presented by the upcoming elections, for which early voting starts in less than a month, IMMEDIATE 15-day notices to Mamdani and Hoylman-Sigal must issue for their responses to the 'specific and credible evidence' of my March e-mails -- with notification to the district attorneys having criminal jurisdiction over them, Queens D.A. Melinda Katz, Manhattan D.A. Alvin Bragg, and Albany D.A. Lee Kindlon, to IMMEDIATELY summon me to appear before grand juries to give testimony under oath in support of felony indictments against them, forthwith -- because, in fact, the evidence against them is not just 'specific and credible', but open-and-shut and *prima facie*, guaranteeing that each will be convicted of the multitude of penal law violations, of which they had notice, repeatedly, for years. This is my sole and EMERGENCY recommendation." (capitalization and underlining in the original).

By the way, when were you planning to report on the *open-and-shut, prima facie* EVIDENCE of Mamdani's corruption, as a NYS assemblyman, and of Hoylman-Sigal's corruption, as a NYS

senator, which I furnished you by my March 18th e-mail – and two additional times, thereafter, by my April 7th and April 18th e-mails?

I am available to assist you in belatedly discharging your First Amendment responsibilities and journalistic duties of truthful, honest reporting. Feel free to call, *no matter how early or late*, as TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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