

From: Barbara Wejnert <bwejnert@buffalo.edu>
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2026 3:37 PM
To: elena@judgewatch.org; law-jaecklecenter@buffalo.edu; Jim Gardner
Cc: Christine Clayback; Anita Gesel; Krystin Wasser; Law Faculty Assistant; Matthew Dimick; Stuart Lazar; Tara Melish; jeffrey.wice@nysls.edu; benjamincenter@newpaltz.edu; minkoffs@newpaltz.edu; karin@cain.berkeley.edu
Subject: **Re: AGAIN -- Scholarship, Amicus Curiae....: The Guarantee Clause & Federal Lawsuit vs The NYT & 33 Other Press Defendants in Vindication of the First Amendment & Constitutional, Lawful NYS Governance**

Hello Elena: Last semester I was on sabbatical leave, today is my first day on campus. Let me read the mails and also let me know if I can help in any way.

best regards,

Barbara
Barbara Wejnert, Ph.D.
Professor,
Political Sociology-Democracy, Sustainability, and Gender
Department of Environment and Sustainability
Jaekel Center for Law, Democracy, and Governing (affiliated faculty)
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Most Recent Publications:

2026. *Authoritarianism and Climate Change Politics*. Economics & Political Science Books, Springer Nature, Germany
2026. Analyzing the Effects of the Global Rise of Autocracies for a Sustainable Future and Environmental Protection. In *Democracy in Retreat and the Climate Crisis*, pp.13-34. Springer Nature DOI: [10.1007/978-3-032-02881-5_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-02881-5_2)
2026. Navigating Environmental Politics and Policies in an Era of Autocracy Rise. In *Democracy in Retreat and the Climate Crisis*, pp.13-34. Springer Nature DOI [10.1007/978-3-032-02881-5_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-02881-5_1)
2025. Examining the Tragedy of the Commons in the Era of Democracy Erosion and Autocracy Rise. *International Affairs Forum*, May, 63-77
2025. Gender-Imbalanced Well-Being: The Impact of Weakened Democracy on a Sustainable Future. *Sociology of Development* 11 (1), pp.1-19.
2025. Democracy and Autocracy's Impact on Countries' Sustainability: The Tragedy of the Commons Revisited. In *Global Rise of Autocracy: Its Threat to Sustainable Future*. Routledge, London/New York. ISBN 9781032851075
2025. Democracy's Regression and Autocracy Diffusion: A Conceptual Framework. In *Global Rise of Autocracy: Its Threat to Sustainable Future*. Routledge, London/New York. ISBN 9781032851075
2025. The Global Rise of Autocracy, Its Threat to a Sustainable Future. Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/The-Global-Rise-of-Autocracy-Its-Threat-to-a-Sustainable-Future/Wejnert/p/book/9781032851075>
2025. Crisscrossing War and Peace, Democracy and Autocracy Viewed Through an Environmental Lens. *Research in Political Sociology* 30, 1-19.
2024. Tracing the Progress. Sociology of Development Through a Feminist Lens. *Sociology of Development* 10 (4), pp. 391-400.
2014 (2016 paperback). *Diffusion of Democracy*. Past and Future of Global Democracy.
<http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/sociology/political-sociology/diffusion-democracy-past-and-future-global-democracy>

From: elena@judgewatch.org <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 10:23 AM
To: law-jaecklecenter@buffalo.edu <law-jaecklecenter@buffalo.edu>; Jim Gardner <jgard@buffalo.edu>
Cc: Christine Clayback <ckclayba@buffalo.edu>; Anita Gesel <amazurek@buffalo.edu>; Krystin Wasser <krystinw@buffalo.edu>; Law Faculty Assistant <law-facultyassistant@buffalo.edu>; Matthew Dimick <mdimick@buffalo.edu>; Stuart Lazar <slazar@buffalo.edu>; Tara Melish <tmelish@buffalo.edu>;

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Subject: AGAIN -- Scholarship, Amicus Curiae...: The Guarantee Clause & Federal Lawsuit vs The NYT & 33 Other Press Defendants in Vindication of the First Amendment & Constitutional, Lawful NYS Governance

TO: SUNY-BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL – JAECKLE CENTER FOR LAW, DEMOCRACY, & GOVERNANCE
ATT: Director James A. Gardner

How disappointing to have received no response from you to my below December 2nd e-mail. **Is it not germane to the Jaeckle Center's "Mission", embodied in its "Research", "Projects", and "Consulting and Representation", and to your own scholarship, and teaching?**

By way of update, here linked are the October 29, 2025 verified amended complaint, signed by CJA's counsel on January 5, 2026 and refiled and my filed December 19, 2025 affidavit demonstrating subject matter jurisdiction, highlighting the unprecedented manner in which the district court has proceeded.

Please confirm that the federal lawsuit will be part of the Jaeckle Center's research and advise as to when you or other professors of the Jaeckle Center would be available for consultation – and, if not, the reason and your recommendations of other SUNY centers/institutes for which the lawsuit would be germane, and/or specific SUNY or other scholars.

So that Jaeckle Center "Faculty Affiliates" and "Research Fellows" may be apprised of the situation, I am herein cc'ing them, for their assistance in securing an appropriate response.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: elena@judgewatch.org <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 9:34 AM
To: 'law-jaecklecenter@buffalo.edu' <law-jaecklecenter@buffalo.edu>; 'jgard@buffalo.edu' <jgard@buffalo.edu>
Cc: 'ckclayba@buffalo.edu' <ckclayba@buffalo.edu>; 'amazurek@buffalo.edu' <amazurek@buffalo.edu>; 'krystinw@buffalo.edu' <krystinw@buffalo.edu>

Subject: Scholarship, Amicus Curiae, & Counsel Needed: The Guarantee Clause & Federal Lawsuit vs The NYT & 33 Other Press Defendants in Vindication of the First Amendment & Constitutional, Lawful NYS Governance

TO: SUNY-BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL – JAECKLE CENTER FOR LAW, DEMOCRACY, & GOVERNANCE
ATT: Director James A. Gardner

As you know, I am co-founder and director of the non-partisan, nonprofit citizens' organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#).

Directly relevant to the Jaeckle Center's "focus" and "special topics", "pursue[d]...through research and action" – and "Its blog, The New York Elections News: Legislation, Elections and Litigation Covering the Empire State, provid[ing] real-time news, information and commentary about current issues and developments in New York State election law and democratic practice", is the major federal lawsuit that CJA and I have brought on our own behalf and "*on behalf of the People of the State of New York & the Public Interest*" against The New York Times and 33 other press defendants pertaining to NYS governance and elections.

Above-attached and here-linked is the [October 29, 2025 amended verified complaint](#), whose prefacing quote and first paragraph read:

"The First Amendment goes beyond protection of the press...'it is the right of the [public], not the right of the [media], which is paramount,'...for 'without the information provided by the press most of us and many of our representatives would be unable to vote intelligently or to register opinions on the administration of government generally,'..."

Cohen v. Cowles Media Co., 501 U.S. 663, 678 (1991), Justice Souter, writing in dissent with Justices Marshall, Blackmun, and O'Connor, citing cases culminating in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254, 278-279 (1964), cited in "[*Journalistic Malpractice: Suing Jayson Blair and the New York Times for Fraud and Negligence*](#)", 14 Fordham Intellectual Property, Media & Entertainment Law Journal 1, footnotes 62 and 156 (2003).^{fn}

...

1. Pursuant to Article 4, §4 of the United States Constitution, 'The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government...', and the First Amendment to the Constitution pertaining to the press, as explicated by federal caselaw, including as above recited, and the First Amendment's guarantee of 'the right of the people...to petition the Government for a redress of grievances', and the further guarantees of the Fifth Amendment^{fn} and the Fourteenth Amendment, §1^{fn} to every 'person' of 'due process of law' and 'the equal protection of laws', plaintiffs seek declaratory relief and compensatory, presumed, and punitive damages against defendants for their *knowingly* false, 'fake news', corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism, concealing and enabling the destruction of constitutional, lawful governance in New York State, culminating in corrupt candidates running on the 2025 election ballots – and, in particular, for New York City mayor, for New York City public advocate, for Manhattan borough president, for Manhattan district attorney, for Brooklyn district attorney, and to be district attorneys in approximately a dozen other counties throughout the state – and their election." (hyperlink in the original).

[In addition to furnishing the lawsuit for the Center's research, commentary, blogging, and teaching, I am requesting its participatory action as *amicus curiae* or counsel to CJA, *pro bono* or paid](#), which, because I am a non-lawyer, I cannot represent. I believe the lawsuit to be a summary judgment case, as there is NO defense to it factually or legally. The SOLE issue is the magnitude of compensatory, presumed, and punitive damages – a jury determination that will reasonably be many tens of billions of dollars.

The district court's irregular handling of the lawsuit, highlighted by my [November 19th letter to the district court judge](#), only reinforces this – as does my [drafted responding affidavit, for submission in January, disposing, at the outset, and before defendants are even served](#), of a subject matter jurisdiction defense of standing.

As it is essential to put together a crackerjack legal team for what is clearly a monumental, if not unprecedented, lawsuit, fundamental to “a Republican Form of Government” in NYS, please forward to all other SUNY-Buffalo professors who are part of the Center, as well as to other constitutional law scholars and attorneys, for their research and action.

I will call you next week, if I do not hear from you by then.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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