

From: elena@judgewatch.org
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2026 11:10 AM
To: 'michael.waldman@nyu.edu'; 'wendy.weiser@nyu.edu';
'lawrence.norden@nyu.edu'; 'john.kowal@nyu.edu';
'alicia.bannon@nyu.edu'
Cc: 'brennancenter@nyu.edu'
Subject: **AGAIN: Empirical Evidence for Your Scholarship, plus Amicus Curiae...Request -- Federal Lawsuit Pursuant to the Guarantee Clause in Vindication of the First Amendment & Constitutional, Lawful NYS Governance**

TO: [BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE/NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL](#)
[President & CEO Michael Waldman, ESQ.](#)
[Democracy Program Vice President Wendy Weiser, ESQ.](#)
[Elections & Government Program Vice President Lawrence Norden, ESQ.](#)
[Program Initiatives Vice President John F. Kowal, ESQ.](#)
[Judiciary Program Director Alicia Bannon, ESQ.](#)

How disappointing to have received no responses from you to my below December 4th e-mail pertaining to CJA's federal lawsuit against The New York Times and 33 other press defendants. **Was it not directly germane to the [Brennan Center's mission](#) as an "independent nonpartisan law and policy organization that works to reform, revitalize, and defend our country's system of democracy and justice", with advocacy based on its being a "think tank, conducting rigorous research to identify problems and craft transformative solution".**

Indeed, the Brennan Center's own [2004](#), [2006](#), and [2008](#) reports on the New York State Legislature, the latter two bearing Mr. Norden's name on their cover, are cited to and linked at ¶¶43A(1) and 60(b) of the federal lawsuit, in substantiation of its assertion that the Legislature's "dysfunction" chronicled by those reports is "largely unchanged" and reflects a Legislature NOT operating at a constitutional level – quite apart from its handling of the budget, which the reports had not examined and whose "grand larceny of the public fisc", born of FLAGRANT constitutional, statutory, and legislative rule violations, [I have alerted the Brennan Center to, for years](#).

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

Please confirm that the Brennan Center will be including the lawsuit in its "nonpartisan", "rigorous research" and, based thereon, will file an *amicus curiae* brief – and, if not, the reason.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: elena@judgewatch.org <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 4, 2025 2:42 PM

To: 'michael.waldman@nyu.edu' <michael.waldman@nyu.edu>; 'wendy.weiser@nyu.edu' <wendy.weiser@nyu.edu>; 'lawrence.nordan@nyu.edu' <lawrence.nordan@nyu.edu>; 'john.kowel@nyu.edu' <john.kowel@nyu.edu>; 'alicia.bannon@nyu.edu' <alicia.bannon@nyu.edu>
Cc: 'brennancenter@nyu.edu' <brennancenter@nyu.edu>

Subject: Empirical Evidence for Your Scholarship, plus Amicus Curiae & Counsel Request -- Federal Lawsuit Pursuant to the Guarantee Clause in Vindication of the First Amendment & Constitutional, Lawful NYS Governance

TO: [BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE/NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL](#)

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

I am writing to alert you to 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*", pursuant to the Guarantee Clause of the U.S. Constitution, 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](#).

In addition to your scholarship, I request your participation in the lawsuit as *amicus curiae* or as counsel to CJA, which, because I am not a lawyer, I cannot represent.

As will swiftly become apparent to you, the lawsuit is 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.

I would appreciate speaking with you about the foregoing, as soon as possible.

Needless to say, if you are unable to participate in the lawsuit, kindly furnish me with your recommendations of other academic/advocacy organizations, constitutional law professors, and civic-minded attorneys – or, better yet, forward this e-mail to them, directly, so that no time is wasted in putting

together a crackerjack legal team for what is clearly monumental and fundamental to democracy and “a Republican Form of Government” for NYS.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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