

Subject: Primary Source Materials: Press, Politics, & Public Policy

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Organization: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

TO: Professor Alex Jones

Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government

I have just read the description and syllabus for your course, "Press, Politics, and Public Policy" at the Kennedy School of Government -- and hasten to write with respect to the "Long Research Paper" which your students are required to complete by May 3rd.

Have any students chosen to examine media coverage of the processes of judicial selection and discipline? How about media coverage of political luminaries, such as Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and whether it has created her all-but-certain landslide re-election in this year's elections and her huge front-runner status for the White House in 2008?

Our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), has an goldmine of explosive primary source materials to offer students writing on these and similar topics. They consist of our correspondence with a large number of media and chronicle their refusal to report on *readily-verifiable*, fully-documented stories about the corruption of the processes of judicial selection and discipline -- and the complicity of our highest public officers, including those seeking re-election or further public office. Among these: Senator Clinton, Senator Charles Schumer, and New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. Much of this primary source material is posted on our website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible *via* the sidebar panels "**Press Suppression**" and "**Elections 2006: Informing the Voters**".

Our most extensive correspondence, spanning 15 years, is with The New York Times. Based thereon, we are suing The Times for journalistic fraud, rising to a level of election-rigging. The verified complaint is posted on our website, accessible *via* the sidebar panel, "**Suing The New York Times**". Our attached press release "FIRST-OF-ITS KIND PUBLIC INTEREST LAWSUIT vs THE NEW YORK TIMES IN VINDICATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT" provides a summary.

The verified complaint and its substantiating exhibits present a "hard reality" that needs to be confronted in understanding many of the issues identified by your course description -- and in breaking through accepted myths. That you have designated The New York Times as a reading requirement because it is "the nation's most important news organization because of its ability to influence the nation's news agenda" makes the lawsuit all the more relevant for your students. That it was generated by the misfeasance of The Times' first public editor, Daniel Okrent, an invited guest to your March 10th class (and Shorenstein Fellow), only reinforces this.


I will mail you a "hard copy" -- and would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you following your review. I ^{would} also be grateful if you would share it with Professor Thomas Patterson, with whom I spoke about the lawsuit in connection with his important work on "The Vanishing Voter", as well as with Shorenstein Fellow Charles Lewis, an invited guest to your April 17th class, to whom I

wrote about the lawsuit.

Needless to say, I have no objection -- and indeed request -- that you provide the **verified complaint** with exhibits to your students, as well as to the larger academic and journalistic community, for imperatively-needed scholarship, investigation, and reporting .

Thank you.

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 [press-release-1.pdf \(99KB\)](#)

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P R E S S R E L E A S E: March 22, 2006 onward

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PUBLIC INTEREST LAWSUIT vs THE NEW YORK TIMES IN VINDICATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The New York Times is being sued for libel and journalistic fraud in a landmark public interest lawsuit, the first to implement the powerful recommendation for media accountability proposed in the 2003 law review article "*Journalistic Malpractice: Suing Jayson Blair and the New York Times for Fraud and Negligence*", 14 Fordham Intellectual Property, Media & Entertainment Law Journal 1.

The lawsuit, charging The Times with betraying its First Amendment responsibilities to the public, is brought by the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) and its director, Elena Ruth Sassower. The libel causes of action are based on a Times' column, "*When the Judge Sledgehammered The Gadfly*", about Ms. Sassower, then serving a six-month jail sentence in D.C., after conviction on a "disruption of Congress" charge. An analysis of the column, annexed as Exhibit A to the Verified Complaint, demonstrates that the column is "deliberately defamatory", "knowingly false and misleading", and "completely covers up the politically-explosive underlying national and New York stories of the corruption of the processes of judicial selection and discipline, involving our highest public officers".

These public officers include Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, running for re-election to the U.S. Senate this year, with an eye to the presidency in 2008, and New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, running this year to be New York's next governor. The Verified Complaint alleges that their anticipated landslide victories are being rigged by The Times, whose steadfast refusal to report on the records of Ms. Clinton and Mr. Spitzer with respect to judicial selection and discipline is with knowledge that such reporting would rightfully end their electoral prospects, if not generate disciplinary and criminal prosecutions against them for corruption. As for past electoral races, the Verified Complaint dramatically shows that The Times rigged Senator Charles Schumer's 2004 re-election to the Senate by similarly refusing to report on his record as to judicial selection and discipline, and, prior thereto, rigged Mr. Spitzer's 2002 re-election as attorney general and Governor George Pataki's 2002 and 1998 re-elections as New York's governor, likewise by refusing to report on their records.

The Times' protectionism of all these public officers -- and its suppression of any coverage of the *readily-verifiable* documentary evidence of systemic governmental corruption involving judicial selection and discipline, provided it by CJA throughout the past 15 years -- underlies the lawsuit's cause of action for journalistic fraud.

The Verified Complaint, its substantiating exhibits, and the law review article are posted on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org -- accessible *via* the sidebar panel, "Suing The New York Times".

* The Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) is a national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization working to ensure that the processes of judicial selection and discipline are effective and meaningful.