



LUCY LANG
Inspector General

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**TESTIMONY OF NEW YORK STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL LUCY LANG TO THE NEW
YORK STATE SENATE'S ETHICS & INTERNAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
December 9, 2021**

Thank you, Chair Biaggi, Ranking Member Palumbo, and the distinguished members of this Committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I am unable to participate in this hearing in person, having just started my position as Inspector General last week and hitting the ground running traveling the state and introducing myself to the Office's staff and learning first-hand about their work. Please know that I appreciate the work of this Committee and welcome the opportunity to speak with Chair Biaggi soon.

As I have recently taken office as New York State's 11th Inspector General, please allow me to introduce myself. I am a lifelong New Yorker, attorney, and educator. I served as Director of the Institute for Innovation in Prosecution, and as an Assistant District Attorney and Special Counsel for Policy and Projects in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. I serve on two task forces for the New York State Bar Association - Racial Injustice and Police Reform; and Racism, Social Equity, and the Law. I am also Vice Chair of the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section, a member of the Council on Criminal Justice, and a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

As you are likely aware, New York State Executive Law Article 4-A grants the Inspector General jurisdiction over all executive branch agencies, departments, divisions, officers, boards, commissions, and most public authorities and benefit corporations, and our functions and responsibilities include investigating complaints of corruption, fraud, criminal activity, conflicts of interest, or abuse. Our Office also reviews the policies and procedures of covered agencies regarding the prevention of misconduct and oversees State agencies involved in prominent infrastructure projects. As one of my first official acts, I reminded the leaders of agencies and authorities under our Office's jurisdiction of their legal responsibility to report fraud, corruption, criminal activity, or abuse to our Office. I also offered to make myself and my staff available to conduct training sessions for their employees to ensure they know where and how to file a complaint.

I am proud to announce that – in addition to the great work already being done by the Office – we have taken unprecedented steps to usher in an era of enhanced transparency and accountability in New York State government – all while maintaining the confidentiality and integrity inherent in the Office's operation. This comprehensive transparency initiative is and will continue to be a hallmark of our Office. On November 29, we published nearly 60 advisory letters to agencies from the past two years outlining investigative findings on a variety of matters. I am committed to this effort, and we will continue to publish future advisory letters and work to retroactively make historical materials available to the public.

We are also making an overdue foray into social media as we offer the public another way to reach our Office, build our team with talented professionals, and highlight the efforts of the Inspector General's Office. We are preparing additional transparency measures as well, including publishing complaint statistics online as well as our Freedom of Information Law log, which will show the public the number of FOIL requests we receive and the time in which records are provided to the public. Our Office is also reviewing materials to ensure that we provide improved access to people with limited English proficiency, in addition to reviewing our current records retention policies to ensure timely transfer of official records to the State Archives.

Our full transparency plan is on our website – www.ig.ny.gov – and reflects my commitment to ushering in a new era of transparency and accountability to all New Yorkers.

My work is very much just beginning, but I am proud of the positive steps our Office has taken in such a short time. I am honored to work with you and your colleagues and look forward to moving towards a bright future for New York State together. I offer you all my warmest wishes for the holiday season and thank you all for inviting me to testify.

Salary information for FOIL request 010-2022

Inspector General: Lucy Lang (\$220,000).

Executive Deputy Inspector General: This title no longer exists, but duties are performed by Chief of Staff Ryan Hayward (\$170,000).

Chief Deputy Inspector General: Robyn Adair (\$159,120).

Deputy Inspectors General: Jessica Silver (\$140,454); James Davis (\$140,454); Jeffrey Hagen (\$142,005); Lynn Tabbott (\$ 147,259); Jean Carsey (\$155,692); Lisa Lee (\$164,158); Pauline Ross (\$136,045).

Chief, Case Management Unit: Leslie Arp (\$110,806).

Chief Investigators: Charles Turone (\$92,814); Sherry Amarel (\$133,421); Benjamin Defibaugh (\$173,431).

Special Deputy Inspector General for Communications: This title no longer exists.

Chief Counsel: This title is vacant with no salary set.

Members of November 2021 Complaint Review Panel

Benjamin Defibaugh

Brendan Cushing

Sherry Amarel

Jeffrey Hagen

Jessica Silver

James Davis

Leslie Arp

Lee Park

Robyn Adair

Lisa Lee

Lynn Tabbott

Matthew Petell

Sharon Gagliardi

**Office of the Inspector General
Complaint Intake Form**

Office	Source of Complaint	Date Complaint Received: Wed 11/3/2021	File Number: 2662-089- 2021
Albany	Website	Time Complaint Received: <None>	
Received By: smulhall - MULHALL, SHARON			Page 1 of 1
To Intake/Date: Wed 11/3/2021		Intake Person: dkrueger - Krueger, Danielle	
Additional Source Information:			

Location of Occurrence	County:	City:	Town:	Village:
<p>Allegation: Elena Sassower sent in a complaint stating that this web page does not contain an attachment feature -- nor indicate an e-mail address to which complaints can be sent. There is no pick-up when I phone during normal business hours -- and I have received no call back to voice messages I left yesterday at 3:01 pm [(800)367-4448] and today at 4:35 pm [(518)474-1010] . My FULLY-DOCUMENTED complaint is set forth in a letter of today's date to Inspector General Lucy Lang entitled "ENABLING YOU TO FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF YOUR OFFICE: Sworn complaints against 'covered agencies' within your jurisdiction: (1) the Office of the Inspector General; (2) the Joint Commission on Public Ethics; (3) the State University of New York; (4) the Division on the Budget; (5) the defunct Commission on Judicial Compensation, whose fraudulent August 29, 2011 report lives on, rewarding a corrupt judiciary with pay raises and depriving the public of functioning safeguards against judicial corruption; and (6) the defunct Commission to Investigate Public Corruption, whose fraudulent December 2, 2013 report lives on, concealing the manifestations and true causes of New York's corruption and the ease with which it is rectified." This November 2, 2021 complaint/letter is posted on the Center for Judicial Accountability's website, www.judgewatch.org <http://www.judgewatch.org>, accessible from the left side panel Searching for Champions-NYS, which brings up a web page listing the NYS Inspector General. The direct link to the web page for the complaint/letter is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/ny-inspector-general-11-2-21-complaints.htm>. I will, additionally, e-mail the letter/complaint to the e-mail address I do have. I look forward to being contacted -- and soon. Elena Sassower calls NYSIG numerous times & emails, but will not provide CMU with her complaint. Just continues to ask questions.</p>				
Number of Subjects:		Witnesses: No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		

Administrative Information	OSIG:	Case Name: Sassower, Elena		
To Chief Investigator:	Date:	Violations:		
Assigned to Investigator: <None>				
Assigned to Investigative Attorney: <None>				
Approved: Chief of Investigations:				
Recommendation: <input type="checkbox"/> OPEN <input type="checkbox"/> P.I <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA Explanation – OIG cc'd on complaint, redundant to send to JCOPE				
Complainant INFORMATION				
Name:	SASSOWER, ELENA		Position: DIRECTOR ID:	
Primary Address:	10 Stewart Place, Apt 2D-E, White Plains, NY 10603			
Soc-Sec#:	DOB:	Age:	Sex: Female	
Primary Phone:	(646) 220-7987	Mobile	Requested Confidentiality?	
Secondary Phone:	(914) 421-1200	Business	Willing to Testify?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Employer:	Worksite:			
Address:				
Searched:	If yes list reference case(s):	Other Phone(s):	E-mail Address:	License Plate(S):
Searched and No Cases Found			ELENA@JUDG EWATCH.ORG	State(s) of Issue:

CMU Employee	NYSIG/W CFIG/OWH G/INMAT E BATCH/N ON-JUR	Intake #	Case Number	Allegation	CMU Notes	Albany recommendation	NYC recommendation	Buffalo Recommendation	OWIG recommendation	WCFIG recommendation	Final Decision		
SG	NYSIG	11032021-007		<p>Elena Sassower sent in a complaint stating that this web page does not contain an attachment feature -- nor indicate an e-mail address to which complaints can be sent. There is no pick-up when I phone during normal business hours -- and I have received no call back to voice messages I left yesterday at 3:01 pm [(800)367-4448] and today at 4:35 pm [(518)474-1010]. My FULLY-DOCUMENTED complaint is set forth in a letter of today's date to Inspector General Lucy Lang entitled "EMBLING YOU TO FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF YOUR OFFICE: Sworn complaints against 'covered agencies' within your jurisdiction: (1) the Office of the Inspector General; (2) the Joint Commission on Public Ethics; (3) the State University of New York; (4) the Division on the Budget; (5) the defunct Commission on Judicial Compensation, whose fraudulent August 29, 2011 report lives on, rewarding a corrupt judiciary with pay raises and depriving the public of functioning safeguards against judicial corruption; and (6) the defunct Commission to Investigate Public Corruption, whose fraudulent December 2, 2013 report lives on, concealing the manifestations and true causes of New York's corruption and the ease with which it is rectified." This November 2, 2021 complaint/letter is posted on the Center for Judicial Accountability's website, www.judgewatch.org <http://www.judgewatch.org> accessible from the left side panel Searching for Champions-NYS, which brings up a web page listing the NY's Inspector General. The direct link to the web page for the complaint/letter is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/ny-inspector-general-11-2-21-complaints.html> I will, additionally, e-mail the letter/complaint to the e-mail address I do have. I look forward to being contacted -- and soon.</p>	<p>D345-00D-2013 - Allegation - Elena Sassower is the Director at the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. Sassower, submits the link www.judgewatch.org which brings up the article, "Governor Cuomo Appoints Moreland" "Commission to Investigate Public Corruption, " with AG Schneiderman Designating Commission Members as Deputy Attorneys General." N/A. 2250-089-2014 - Allegation - Elena Sassower, Director of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., submits complaint against legislative leaders, Governor Cuomo, and JCOPE for the alleged violation of the Public Officer's Law with respect to the Public Integrity Reform Act of 2011. Sassower alleges that as of June 1, 2014, a 8-member review commission has still not been appointed. N/A... 2050-089-2021 - Allegation - Elena Sassower calls NYSIG numerous times & emails, but will not provide CMU with her complaint. Just continues to ask questions. N/A. When speaking to her on the phone her complaints were mainly about this office, our website, conflicts of interest, corruption within our office, and how our website is not user friendly.</p>	NA	na	NA					EM to draft and finalize a letter and then CMU will get it out