

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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April 14, 2026

TO: [District Attorneys Association of the State of New York \(DAASNY\)](#)
ATT: President/Rensselaer County District Attorney Mary Pat Donnelly
NYS' 61 Other District Attorneys & Acting District Attorneys

FROM: Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

RE: FURTHER NOTICE & GRAND JURY/PUBLIC CORRUPTION COMPLAINT:
Your April 1, 2026 2% D.A. salary increases, the "false instrument" December 4, 2023 Report on which they are based, and other grand larcenies of the public fisc and violations of penal laws by NYS' highest public officers for inquiry by grand juries pursuant to Article I, §6 of the NYS Constitution – and, specifically, pertaining to the FY2026-27 state budget

Nearly two years ago, I sent you or your D.A. predecessors a [July 18, 2024 NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint](#), which opened, as follows:

“This is to give you NOTICE that the district attorney salary increases that took effect on April 1, 2024 as a result of the statutory link between D.A. salaries and judicial salaries did so because of Albany County D.A. Soares’ willful nonfeasance with respect to [CJA’s February 23, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint](#) to him, proving, by an enclosed [January 18, 2024 Opposition Report](#), that the December 4, 2023 Report of the (3rd) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, raising judicial salaries, is a ‘false instrument’, violative of penal laws including:

[Penal Law §175.35](#) (‘offering a false instrument for filing
in the first degree’);
[Penal Law §195](#) (‘official misconduct’);
[Penal Law §105.15](#) (‘Conspiracy in the second degree’);
[Penal Law §20.00](#) (‘criminal liability for conduct of another’);
[Penal Law §496](#) (‘corrupting the government’) –
part of the ‘Public Trust Act’”.

I received NO responses from you or your predecessors – and, among you, the five D.A.s elected on November 5, 2024, to whom I had repeatedly provided the July 18, 2024 NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint, *prior to their election*, most importantly to then D.A. candidate

Lee Kindlon, who succeeded D.A. Soares and took office on January 1, 2025.¹ As a result of this self-interested nonfeasance by all the D.A.s, there was no cessation of the corruption of state governance that the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint particularized, with evidence. To the contrary, it metastasized, including by a “false instrument”, penal law-violating November 14, 2024 Report of the (3rd) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, increasing salaries for Executive Law §169 officers – so-proven by the [February 4, 2025 Opposition Report](#) I furnished to D.A. Kindlon and four other jurisdictionally-appropriate D.A.s² by a [March 3, 2025 grand jury/public corruption complaint against the seven members of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation](#), then expanded by a [March 27, 2025 supplement](#) to embrace the conspiring public officers in New York’s three government branches, including ALL seven judges of the Court of Appeals for their corrupting of CJA’s [appeal of right in CJA v. JCOPE, et al.](#) and [direct appeal of right in CJA v. Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, et al.](#), and pertaining to the FY2025-26 state budget. As with my [many, many prior e-mails to D.A. Kindlon](#), I received NO response from him, at all – and the only responses I did receive, from underlings in three of the D.A. offices, were conclusory frauds.³

Again emboldened, the complained-against public officers have ALL continued their flagrant corrupting of state governance, involving the state budget, salary increases, and New York’s sham oversight/“public protection” entities. A summary of this, by the three written testimonies I submitted for the Legislature’s FY2026-27 budget hearings, is herewith furnished in substantiation of this further NOTICE to you and further grand jury/public corruption complaint against them. These testimonies are:

- my [written testimony for the Legislature’s February 11, 2026 budget hearing on “local government officials/general government”](#);
- my [written testimony for the Legislature’s February 12, 2026 budget hearing on “public protection”](#);
- my [written testimony for the Legislature’s February 24, 2026 budget hearing on higher education](#).

¹ These four other D.A.s, who took office on [January 1, 2025](#), are Westchester D.A. Cacace, Livingston D.A. Williams, Montgomery County D.A. Pearson, and Orleans County D.A. Howard.

² These five D.A.s to whom CJA’s March 3, 2025 grand jury/public corruption complaint was addressed are, in addition to D.A. Kindlon, Manhattan D.A. Bragg, Erie D.A. Keane, Westchester D.A. Cacace, and Brooklyn D.A. Gonzalez.

³ These were from the offices of D.As. Keane, Bragg, and Cacace, accessible from [CJA’s webpage for my 2024-2025 correspondence with the D.A.s](#).

Suffice to highlight – and it is highlighted by my testimonies – that the salary increases resulting from the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation's "false instrument", penal law-violating December 4, 2023 and November 14, 2024 Reports are NOT one-time expenses, but ongoing, recurring larcenies in each year's budget – the cumulative cost of which, with this year's budget, is over \$100 million dollars and includes 2% increases to judicial salaries, effective April 1, 2026, of which the D.A.s are also beneficiaries. In dollar amounts, this 2% adds between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to the approximately \$20,000-plus in salary increases for most, if not all, 57 D.A.s outside New York City, effective April 1, 2024, as a result of the December 4, 2023 Report.⁴

Of course, this roughly \$25,000 in salary increases for each of the 57 D.A.s, arising from the December 4, 2023 Report, sits on the roughly \$75,000 in D.A. salary increases resulting from the August 29, 2011 Report of the Commission on Judicial Compensation and the December 24, 2015 Report of the (1st) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation – both "false instruments" in identical respects that would be replicated by the December 4, 2023 and November 14, 2024 Reports of the (3rd) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation. This brings the total larceny in the salaries of each of the 57 or so D.A.s to over \$100,000,⁵ the cost of which, together with concomitant increases in salary-linked, non-salary benefits, is mostly borne by the 57 counties.

To assist you in belatedly acknowledging your HUGE and direct financial and other interests, mandating your securing a special prosecutor for the July 18, 2024 and March 21-27, 2025 grand jury/public corruption complaints that you have been "sitting on" to benefit yourselves and those with whom you have political and personal relationships, I am cc'ing the New York State Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct, with a request that this NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint be deemed in further support of the November 18, 2024 and March 21, 2025 conflict-of-interest/corruption complaints that I filed with it against you, presently before its commissioners by my March 30, 2026 letter. In the unlikely event that the eight D.A.s who took office after January 1, 2025⁶ were not informed by their D.A. predecessors, or by their D.A.

⁴ Effective April 1, 2026, based on the December 4, 2023 Report, the D.A. salaries pegged to Supreme Court salaries rose from \$232,600 to \$237,300 and the D.A. salaries pegged to County Court judge salaries rose, depending on the county, from \$232,600 to \$237,300; or from \$223,700 to \$228,200; or from \$221,100 to \$225,600.

Effective April 1, 2024, based on the December 4, 2023 Report, the D.A. salaries pegged to Supreme Court salaries rose from \$210,900 to \$232,600 and the D.A. salaries pegged to County Court judge salaries rose, depending on the county, from \$210,900 to \$232,600; or from \$202,800 to \$223,700; or from \$200,400 to \$221,100.

⁵ Supreme Court & County Court salaries prior to April 1, 2012 – and hence most D.A. salaries – are set forth in Judiciary Law §221-B and Judiciary Law §221-D, respectively, unamended to date. Supreme Court salaries, which are now \$237,300, were then \$136,700. County Court salaries, now ranging as high as \$237,300, were then no higher than \$136,700, most being \$119,800.

⁶ These are Allegany Acting D.A. Degnan; Cattaraugus D.A. Smith, Essex D.A. Langely, Madison

colleagues, or by DAASNY of the situation with respect to their D.A. salaries and their duties with respect to the public officers within their geographic jurisdictions, they are now informed.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE – including because Governor Hochul, Attorney General James, Comptroller DiNapoli, and a large majority of the Legislature's 213 members, starting with Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie, are running for re-election this year. As is obvious from CJA's July 18, 2024 and March 27, 2025 grand jury/public corruption complaints against them – and from this further grand jury/public corruption complaint against them pertaining to the FY2026-27 state budget, resting on my above-linked written testimonies, with their substantiating evidentiary links, including to [FOIL requests](#) – NONE of these public officers can be re-elected because ALL must be indicted for public corruption, including grand larceny, and they will be convicted, by evidence that is *prima facie*, open-and-shut.

I am ready, immediately, to appear, under oath, before grand juries, so that they can discharge their constitutional function pursuant to [Article I, Section 6 of the New York State Constitution](#)⁷ and their statutory duties pursuant to [Criminal Procedure Law Article 190](#), including [§190.85](#) for a “grand jury report”,⁸ which you have heretofore subverted, *in toto*. Please advise as to the arrangements you will be making to enable me to do so, consistent with your own constitutional and statutory duties pursuant to [Article XIII, §§1, 13\(b\) of the State Constitution](#) and [County Law §700.1](#): “...it shall be the duty of every district attorney to conduct

D.A. Mascari, Monroe D.A. Green, Ontario D.A. MacBride, Otsego Acting D.A. Di Donna, Schuyler D.A. Hourihan.

⁷ “...any public officer who, upon being called before a grand jury to testify concerning the conduct of his or her present office or of any public office held by him or her within five years prior to such grand jury call to testify, or the performance of his or her official duties in any such present or prior offices, refuses to sign a waiver of immunity against subsequent criminal prosecution, or to answer any relevant question concerning such matters before such grand jury, shall by virtue of such refusal, be disqualified from holding any other public office or public employment for a period of five years from the date of such refusal to sign a waiver of immunity against subsequent prosecution, or to answer any relevant question concerning such matters before such grand jury, and shall be removed from his or her present office by the appropriate authority or shall forfeit his or her present office at the suit of the attorney-general.

The power of grand juries to inquire into the wilful misconduct in office of public officers, and to find indictments or to direct the filing of informations in connection with such inquiries, shall never be suspended or impaired by law. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.” (bold added).

⁸ Such provision, begins, as follows:

“1. The grand jury may submit to the court by which it was impaneled, a report:

Concerning misconduct, non-feasance or neglect in public office by a public servant as the basis for a recommendation of removal or disciplinary action...”

all prosecutions for crimes and offenses cognizable by the courts of the county for which he or she shall have been elected or appointed...’.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, both with respect to the FY2026-27 state budget and this year’s elections for governor, attorney general, comptroller, all 213 legislative seats, judges – and for D.A.s. in at least seven counties.⁹

As always, I am available to answer your questions, under oath, and attest to the truth of the foregoing – adopting the words of the complaint form of the Public Integrity Unit that former Albany D.A. Soares had established and discontinued, and which [D.A. Kindlon did not reinstitute](#):

“I understand that any false statements made in this complaint are punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor under Section 175.30 and/or Section 210.45 of the Penal Law.”

Thank you.

s/Elena Ruth Sassower

cc: New York State Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct

⁹ These are Allegany County, Cayuga County, Franklin County, Fulton County, Greene County, Otsego County, Rensselaer County.