

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2016 9:54 PM
To: 'cmckenna@th-record.com'
Subject: BIG STORY! Investigating the REAL REASON for the Commission's shut down of its tomorrow's hearing --

Dear Chris,

Re: your today's article: <http://www.recordonline.com/news/20161017/panel-cancels-hearing-on-proposed-raises-for-ny-lawmakers>.

There's a BIG STORY about the Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation's cancellation of its hearing, scheduled for tomorrow.

Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte was scheduled to testify. Indeed, it was her September 20th written statement to the Commission, stating "This is a formal request to express my desire to testify before the panel", posted on its website, that prompted the Commission to schedule a further hearing to accommodate her testimony – and that of other legislators – so that they could make their case for legislative pay raises.

Here's Assemblywoman Bichotte's September 20th written statement: http://nyscommissiononcompensation.org/pdf/bichotte_letter%20to%20commission_20160919_final.pdf.

The transcript of what took place at the Commission's September 22nd meeting, at which she was present – and was introduced – is here: <http://nyscommissiononcompensation.org/pdf/092216-commission%20transcript.pdf> -- see, inter alia, pp. 2, 8-9, 38-39. Then, too, the video: <http://nyscommissiononcompensation.org/meetings-legislative.shtml>

There's a BIG story here. I believe that the Commission tried to keep the September 22nd meeting away from press attention – and for that reason did not live-stream it. Because of this I could not watch it live on September 22nd, but having read Assemblywoman Bichotte's posted statement, I used the time to call her office – and spoke at length to her chief of staff, Ms. Taylor, taking her on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, and guiding her through the paper trail of proof of how a corrupt Legislature created a corrupt Commission – and involving the Assembly Committee on Governmental Operations, of which the Assemblywoman is a member. See, for example – CJA's Jan. 15, 2016 letter to Flanagan and Heastie for legislative oversight of the Commission, with cc's for the chair and ranking member of the Assembly Committee on Governmental Operations, expressly requesting distribution to its membership, which would include her: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/2015/jan-15-2016-ltr-to-leg-leaders.htm>.

This paper trail – including CJA's September 2nd citizen-taxpayer action with its three causes of action to strike down the statute that established the Commission, as to which we are entitled to summary judgment, *as a matter of law* -- is accessible from our homepage, www.judgewatch.org, via the center link "NO PAY RAISES FOR NY'S CORRUPT PUBLIC OFFICERS: The Money Belongs to their Victims!". Here it is directly: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/2015-no-pay-raises-menu.htm>.

I called to speak with Assemblywoman Bichotte this morning at about 11:30 am, alerting her office that I was scheduled to testify at tomorrow's hearing and furnishing the details of what I would be saying.... I then called two other assembly members, about whom I was going to be offering testimony at tomorrow's hearing... Two hours later, I got the below e-mail of the cancellation. Then, too, there are the five FOIL notices I sent to the Commission – the latest, this morning: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/2015/2015-comm-leg-jud-exec>

[compensation.htm](#) (scroll to bottom). These FOIL requests echo the December 7, 2015 FOIL request I filed with the Commission for records establishing its press outreach concerning its November 30, 2016 hearing on judicial compensation – about which I contacted you, last year. The March 4, 2016 response I received, from the OCA, is posted.

I am available to answer questions and to be interviewed. I will assist you to the max. For starters, here's Assemblyman Bichotte's webpage: <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte> . Her e-mail is: bichotter@nyassembly.gov .

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200

From: NYS Salary Commission [<mailto:nyscompensation@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2016 2:00 PM
To: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Subject: Re: thank you. -- RE: Request to testify at the Commission's October 18, 2016 public hearing!

We apologize for the late notice, but the Commission's hearing tomorrow is CANCELLED. Please submit any testimony in written form.

The Commission's previously scheduled public hearing for Tuesday, October 18, 2016, has been canceled. This hearing was in addition to the Commission's original calendar and was scheduled for the purpose of providing an opportunity for additional legislators or others who would be directly impacted by a salary increase to present testimony. However, no such persons have asked to do so. The Commission welcomes written submissions.

The Commission has reached no determination or consensus regarding any salary increase recommendations. Please review the web site for further information.

On Wed, Oct 12, 2016 at 11:43 AM NYS Salary Commission <nyscompensation@gmail.com> wrote:

Please note that the hearing will be held on October 18 at 1 p.m. at the

Lester Pollack Colloquium Room, Furman Hall, New York University School of Law,
245 Sullivan St., New York, New York.

You are on the list of witnesses.

On Fri, Oct 7, 2016 at 6:37 PM Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org> wrote:

I look forward to contributing constructively to the hearing.

Elena Sassower

From: NYS Salary Commission [mailto:nyscompensation@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 7, 2016 5:38 PM
To: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Subject: Re: Request to testify at the Commission's October 18, 2016 public hearing!

Hi, you are signed up to testify on October 18. The location will most likely be at NYU Law School, though it is not yet confirmed.

On Thu, Oct 6, 2016 at 9:06 PM Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org> wrote:

TO: Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation:

Now that it's official, by your posting on the Commission's homepage of a boxed notice of a public hearing "on Oct 18 at 1 p.m. at a location in N.Y. City (to be announced)", further stating: "Please e-mail nyscompensation@gmail.com if you would like to testify", I reiterate my request to testify, e-mailed to you this morning by the below.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
(914) 421-1200

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2016 7:48 AM
To: 'nyscompensation@gmail.com' <nyscompensation@gmail.com>
Cc: 'mhamilton@timesunion.com' <mhamilton@timesunion.com>
Subject: October 18, 2016 public hearing? Yes, I request to testify, as I have much to say and EVIDENCE to back it up!

TO: Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation

According to yesterday's Capitol Confidential blog "*Heastie: At minimum, increase lawmaker pay to match inflation*" by Matthew Hamilton, "In an email, the commission said it is mulling over holding another public hearing Oct. 18, though just one person — a member of the public at that — has requested to testify. A final meeting of the commission is set for Oct. 27." <http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/268135/heastie-at-minimum-increase-lawmaker-pay-to-match-inflation/>.

Obviously, members of the public will not be requesting to testify until you actually announce and publicize the date of the public hearing — including its location.

As I am available on October 18th — and have much to say and EVIDENCE to back it up — please consider this my request to testify on that date.

Meantime, and bearing upon the manner in which the Commission is proceeding with respect to a further public hearing, attached is my FOIL request of today's date requesting records pertaining to the Commission's past public hearings on legislative and executive compensation.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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