

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 8:18 AM
To: 'ccrowley@timesunion.com'; 'crowleytimes@gmail.com'
Subject: Electorally-Explosive, Big-Money Story: High Salaries, the Uncontested Re-Election of D.A. Soares -- & the Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation

Dear Ms. Crowley,

A friend has strongly urged me to reach out to you, as a cracker-jack investigative reporter. She told me that she herself reached out to you, on my behalf – and that your response was to invite my contact. Thank you.

Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares is running for re-election UNOPPOSED. Why is that? The yearly Albany County district attorney salary and benefits package is worth well over \$200,000 annually. Is that not high enough to have attracted a long-line of contenders to unseat him?

As you may know, one of the arguments that legislators are making to the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation – and that Commission members are also articulating -- is that higher salaries are necessary to attract more and better candidates. Yet that plainly has not brought ANY competition to the Albany County district attorney race – or to district attorney races in such other counties as Madison, Orleans, Delaware, Fulton, and Niagara counties, also uncontested.

The facts relating to district attorney salaries, legislative and executive salaries, and the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation are front-and-center of a fact-specific, fully-documented October 14, 2016 conflict-of-interest/misconduct complaint against D.A. Soares and his fellow district attorneys, which our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization has filed with the attorney disciplinary committees – including, of course, with the third Department's attorney disciplinary committee.

As the Times Union has done NO examination of D.A. Soares' record in office – let alone as an enforcer of public integrity and the vaunted "Public Trust Act" – the October 14, 2016 complaint against D.A. Soares represents an important opportunity for it to belatedly do so. The complaint is posted on our website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible *via* the prominent homepage link: "NO PAY RAISES FOR NEW YORK'S CORRUPT PUBLIC OFFICERS – The Money Belongs to their Victims!". This leads to a menu whose #14 is entitled "Making the 2016 District Attorney Elections Competitive". The direct link is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/budget-2016-17/2016-da-elections.htm>.

I am available to help you, to the max with this electorally-explosive, big-money story so that, by your journalism, we can CLEAN-UP the public corruption infesting our state government. This is the province of the district attorneys: our "first-line-of defense" – and no district attorney is more important than the Albany County district attorney whose criminal jurisdiction is the Capitol.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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