

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 9:23 PM
To: 'tips@readsludge.com'; 'hello@readsludge.com'; 'donny@readsludge.com'
Subject: **Lawsuit vs JCOPE -- & to VOID the statute shutting it down & replacing it with a "commission on ethics and lobbying in government"(CELG) (Supreme Court/Albany Co. #904235-22)**

TO: SLUDGE Co-Founders David Moore & Donald Shaw

This follows up my [April 11, 2022 e-mail to you](#) entitled “Making Good on your Motto: ‘relentlessly uncovering corruption’ -- & your just published ‘Good Gov Groups Slam New York’s New Ethics Commission Plan’ (4/11/22, David Moore)” – to which I received no response.

In less than a month, the “ethics commission reform act of 2022” is scheduled to take effect, replacing JCOPE with a “commission on ethics and lobbying in government” (CELG). This is NO “reform”, as the new statute is markedly INFERIOR to the old statute in that it strips complainants and the public of enforceable rights for no purpose other than to better “protect” New York’s statewide executive officers – the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller – and the 213 state legislators – from meritorious complaints.

To demonstrate the important rights that the “ethics commission reform act of 2022” eliminates – and to VOID the statute because it was enacted in flagrant violation of the New York State Constitution, statutes, legislative rules, and caselaw – the non-partisan, non-profit citizens’ organization Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), acting “on behalf of the People of the State of New York & the Public Interest”, has brought suit against JCOPE, against its statutory partner, the Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC), and against JCOPE’s statutory monitor, the New York State Inspector General (NYS-IG), plus those responsible for, and benefitting from, eliminating JCOPE and for corrupting constitutional, lawful state governance by the budget and otherwise, *to wit*, Governor Hochul, Temporary Senate President Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the Senate, Assembly Speaker Heastie, the Assembly, Attorney General James, and Comptroller DiNapoli.

Below is the NOTICE sent to them yesterday of the oral argument scheduled for 2 pm, next Friday, June 17, 2022, in Albany Supreme Court for a TRO to stay the “ethics commission reform act of 2022” from taking effect on July 8, 2022 and to enjoin JCOPE from closing, pending final determination of the lawsuit’s June 6, 2022 verified petition/complaint and its accompanying order to show cause. The direct link to the Court’s electronic docket of the case is [here](#). CJA’s own webpage for the case, entitled “**June 6, 2022 – D-DAY plus 78 years**: CJA’s lawsuit vs JCOPE, LEC, NYS-IG – & the statewide & state legislative electeds they have ‘protected’, HOCHUL, STEWART-COUSINS, SENATE, HEASTIE, ASSEMBLY, JAMES, DiNAPOLI”, is [here](#).

I am available to assist you, to the max, in discharging your First Amendment responsibilities to the People of the State of New York to report and investigate the facts and law pertaining to the case – responsibilities reinforced by its obvious significance to the 2022 electoral races. As time is of the essence, I invite you to call me no matter how early, late, and on the weekends.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 11:35 AM
To: 'jcope@jcope.ny.gov' <jcope@jcope.ny.gov>; 'Emily.Logue@jcope.ny.gov' <Emily.Logue@jcope.ny.gov>; 'jose.nieveslaw@gmail.com' <jose.nieveslaw@gmail.com>; 'glavine@bhlawpllc.com' <glavine@bhlawpllc.com>; 'sgerstman@magavern.com' <sgerstman@magavern.com>; 'marvin.jacob@retired.weil.com' <marvin.jacob@retired.weil.com>; 'dmcnamara@phillipslytle.com' <dmcnamara@phillipslytle.com>; 'lreid@nysenate.gov' <lreid@nysenate.gov>; 'inspector.general@ig.ny.gov' <inspector.general@ig.ny.gov>; 'INTAKEUNIT' <emailreply@ig.ny.gov>; 'records.access@exec.ny.gov' <records.access@exec.ny.gov>; 'josephj@nysenate.gov' <josephj@nysenate.gov>; 'haakb@nyassembly.gov' <haakb@nyassembly.gov>; 'NYAG.Pressoffice@ag.ny.gov' <NYAG.Pressoffice@ag.ny.gov>; 'andy.aujla@ag.ny.gov' <andy.aujla@ag.ny.gov>; 'mkogut@osc.ny.gov' <mkogut@osc.ny.gov>

Cc: 'shetman@nycourts.gov' <shetman@nycourts.gov>

Subject: June 17, 2022 oral argument on TRO -- CJA, et al. v. JCOPE, et al. (#904235-22/Albany County)

TO: **New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) –**
ATT: Sanford Berland/Executive Director
Emily Logue/Director of Investigations & Enforcement
Chair Jose Nieves
Commissioners: Gary Lavine, Sharon Gerstman,
Marvin Jacob, David McNamara
Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC) – ATT: Lisa Reid/Executive Director
New York State Inspector General (NYS-IG) – ATT: Lucy Lang/NYS-IG
Governor Kathy Hochul – ATT: [FOIL officer](#)
Temporary Senate President Andrea Stewart-Cousins & Senate –
ATT: Jellisa Joseph/Counsel to Secretary of the Senate
Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie & Assembly – ATT: Brian Haak/Counsel
Attorney General Letitia James – ATT: [AG-press](#); [Westchester Bureau Chief Andy Aujla](#)
Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli – ATT: Mike Kogut/Associate Counsel

This follows my phone and e-mail communications with you and/or your offices on Tuesday, Wednesday, and today concerning the lawsuit against you, *Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., et al. v. New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, et al.*, filed in Albany County (#904235-22).

Next Friday, June 17th, at 2 p.m., oral argument will be had, in Albany County Supreme Court at 16 Eagle Street, before Justice Peter Lynch, on petitioners/plaintiffs' request for a TRO to stay the "ethics commission reform act of 2022" – Part QQ of Education, Labor, Housing, and Family Assistance Budget Bill #S.8006-C/A.9006-C – from taking effect on July 8, 2022 and to enjoin JCOPE from closing, pending final determination of the lawsuit's June 6, 2022 verified petition/complaint and its accompanying order

to show cause. At issue is the sixth cause of action (¶¶78-85) that Part QQ was enacted unconstitutionally, unlawfully, and by fraud.

On June 17th, I will serve you with hard copies of the papers. In the meantime, you will not be hampered in the slightest in preparing, **fully**, for the oral argument, as all the papers are available electronically, *via* NYSCEF (New York State Courts Electronic Filing). The direct link to the electronic docket of the case is [here](#). You can also access the verified petition/complaint, the order to show cause, and my accompanying affidavit from CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org – and the direct link is [here](#). Indeed, accessing the case *via* NYSCEF and CJA's website will enable you to access the scores, if not hundreds, of substantiating links petitioners/plaintiffs' papers contain, not accessible from the hard copies.

So that I might be guided accordingly in the number of copies to reproduce – a not inconsiderable expense – please advise if you will waive service of the hard copies, as superfluous.

Justice Lynch's principal law clerk, Stehle Hetman-Mika, is herewith *cc'd*, as discussed with her.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, individual petitioner/plaintiff *pro se*
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