

## GUIDE FOR ORLEANS COUNTY “LOCAL JOURNALISM”

### INFORMING THE VOTERS:

**Orleans County's Uncontested D.A. Candidate Howard,  
its 2 Uncontested Legislative Candidates Ortt & Hawley,  
& its 4 Uncontested Supreme Court Candidates, Etc.**

The duty of the Orleans County D.A. is to enforce New York’s penal laws and obey conflict of interest protocols. That is the subject of the [Center for Judicial Accountability’s July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint](#) to [Orleans County D.A. Joseph Cardone](#). It involves his \$221,100 D.A. salary, statutorily-linked to the Orleans county court judge salary. Of this, \$101,300 is the product of three “false instrument”, penal law-violating commission reports that Orleans County’s two state legislators, each running for re-election, are knowledgeable of and complicit in.

D.A. Cardone is retiring – and his top assistant, Susan Howard, is running for election to replace him. By the below July 24, 2024 e-mail, I sent her the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint, requesting her response by August 1<sup>st</sup> to two simple questions:

- (1) whether, if elected, she would repudiate the \$101,300 salary difference and advise Orleans County to secure a judicial declaration voiding the three “false instrument”, penal law-violating commission reports?;
- (2) whether, if elected, she would recuse herself from the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint and secure an independent prosecutor?

D.A. Candidate Howard did not respond. Surely, however, she will be more responsive to inquiries from you – and she is ready to field them as I sent her e-mails alerting her to press inquiries.

What does she have to say about the \$221,100 Orleans County D.A. salary – and about Orleans County’s state legislators whose public corruption is prioritized by the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint (at pp. 2-4). Will she disclose her political, professional, and personal relationships with them – and with the other public officers complained-against and implicated by the grand jury/public corruption complaint?

And can D.A. Candidate Howard explain how it is possible that notwithstanding [Orleans County has a population of 40,148 and median household income of \\$61,069](#) and [state legislator salaries are \\$142,000, the highest in the nation](#), on top of which, as with D.A. salaries, are many thousands of dollars more in non-salary compensation benefits:

- [Senator Robert Ortt \(SD62\)](#) is uncontested for re-election and is running on both Republican and Conservative lines for which he faced no primaries for either line;
- [Assemblyman Stephen Hawley \(AD139\)](#) is uncontested for re-election and is running on both Republic and Conservative lines for which he faced no primaries for either line.

Indeed, D.A. Howard herself is uncontested for election and is running on both Republican and Conservative lines for which she faced but a single primary challenge, for the Republican line. How does she explain that?

For that matter, can she explain how is it possible that with supreme court judicial salaries being \$232,600, plus thousands of dollars in non-salary compensation benefits, and the candidate pool encompassing the eight counties of the Eighth Judicial District, the Republican and Democratic parties put forward the same four candidates for the four supreme court judgeships on Orleans County ballots: incumbents Deborah Chimes, Henry Nowak, and Catherine Nugent, plus Assemblyman Michael Norris – the latter being additionally the only candidate the Conservative party put forward.

I look forward to discussing with you the above questions and assisting your investigative journalism about Orleans County's D.A. race, two state legislative races, and judicial races for supreme court to city court – all involving “false instrument”, penal law-violating salaries for these offices. Meantime, here's CJA's webpage for the 2024 Orleans D.A. election.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
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914-421-1200  
[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 1:49 PM

**To:** 'christinapearsonesq@yahoo.com' <[christinapearsonesq@yahoo.com](mailto:christinapearsonesq@yahoo.com)>;  
'Team@SusanHowardForDA.com' <[Team@SusanHowardForDA.com](mailto:Team@SusanHowardForDA.com)>

**Subject: Your Uncontested Montgomery & Orleans D.A. Races & Demonstrating Your Fitness for the Office -- NOTICE & Grand Jury/Public Corruption Complaint**

**Attachments:**                    [7-18-24-daasny-notice-complaint.pdf](#);  
    [7-17-24-complaint-vs-soares-to-albany-ethics.pdf](#);  
    [7-17-24-transmittal-to-soares.pdf](#)

**TO:**        [Presumptive Incoming Montgomery County D.A. Christina Pearson](#)  
              [Presumptive Incoming Orleans County D.A. Susan Howard](#)

I am director and co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), which, for several decades, has documented the collusion of all three branches of our state government in the subversion and collapse of lawful, constitutional governance. New York's 62 D.A.s, whose duty it is to enforce the state's penal laws, including against law-breaking public officers, are key participants in this.

Of this year's 14 D.A. races, nine are uncontested. You are two of the nine D.A. candidates running unopposed and presumptive “winners” in the “elections” unless the voters rebel by launching write-in campaigns to elect persons more suited for so important an office.

I have already written to the other seven unopposed D.A. candidates, five incumbent D.A.s and two acting D.A.s, and to New York's 55 other D.A.s and acting D.A.s, sending them the above three attachments by the below July 18<sup>th</sup> e-mail entitled “NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint – Your D.A. salary

increases, the judicial salary increases on which they are based, & the violations of NY penal laws by state legislators within your jurisdictions”, requesting their answers, by August 1<sup>st</sup>, to two simple questions:

- (1) whether they will be repudiating their state-mandated D.A. salary increases, paid from their county budgets, because they are based on three “false instrument”, penal law-violating commission reports raising judicial salaries;
- (2) confirmation that they will be recusing themselves from CJA’s July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint pertaining thereto and securing an independent prosecutor.

In the event your non-re-election-seeking D.A. bosses to whom you are each top assistants, Montgomery County D.A. Diamond and Orleans County D.A. Cardone, did not share with you my above correspondence, you now have it by this e-mail.

If elected, what would your answers be? Please let me hear from you by August 1<sup>st</sup> so that, based on your answers, Montgomery and Orleans county voters may be apprised as to whether write-in campaigns must be launched for suitable D.A. candidates who will abide by their duty to enforce the penal laws, including by recusing themselves when compromised by self-interest and relationships.

I am available to answer questions and assist you in demonstrating your fitness for the office to which you aspire.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2024 8:49 PM  
**To:** 'president@daasny.org' <[president@daasny.org](mailto:president@daasny.org)>; 'mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov' <[mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov](mailto:mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov)>; 'david.soares@albanycountyny.gov' <[david.soares@albanycountyny.gov](mailto:david.soares@albanycountyny.gov)>; 'ian.jones@alleganyco.com' <[ian.jones@alleganyco.com](mailto:ian.jones@alleganyco.com)>; 'clarkda@bronxda.nyc.gov' <[clarkda@bronxda.nyc.gov](mailto:clarkda@bronxda.nyc.gov)>; 'paul.battisti@broomecounty.us' <[paul.battisti@broomecounty.us](mailto:paul.battisti@broomecounty.us)>; 'LPRieman@cattco.org' <[LPRieman@cattco.org](mailto:LPRieman@cattco.org)>; 'bantonacci@cayugacounty.us' <[bantonacci@cayugacounty.us](mailto:bantonacci@cayugacounty.us)>; 'schmidtj@chqgov.com' <[schmidtj@chqgov.com](mailto:schmidtj@chqgov.com)>; 'wwetmore@chemungcountyny.gov' <[wwetmore@chemungcountyny.gov](mailto:wwetmore@chemungcountyny.gov)>; 'mferrarese@co.chenango.ny.us' <[mferrarese@co.chenango.ny.us](mailto:mferrarese@co.chenango.ny.us)>; 'andrew.wylie@clintoncountygov.com' <[andrew.wylie@clintoncountygov.com](mailto:andrew.wylie@clintoncountygov.com)>; 'districtattorney@columbiacountyny.gov' <[districtattorney@columbiacountyny.gov](mailto:districtattorney@columbiacountyny.gov)>; 'pperfetti@cortland-co.org' <[pperfetti@cortland-co.org](mailto:pperfetti@cortland-co.org)>; 'shawn.smith@co.delaware.ny.us' <[shawn.smith@co.delaware.ny.us](mailto:shawn.smith@co.delaware.ny.us)>; 'aparisi@co.dutchessny.gov' <[aparisi@co.dutchessny.gov](mailto:aparisi@co.dutchessny.gov)>; 'Michael.Keane@erie.gov' <[Michael.Keane@erie.gov](mailto:Michael.Keane@erie.gov)>; 'Kristy.Sprague@essexcountyny.gov' <[Kristy.Sprague@essexcountyny.gov](mailto:Kristy.Sprague@essexcountyny.gov)>; 'elizabeth.crawford@franklincountyny.gov' <[elizabeth.crawford@franklincountyny.gov](mailto:elizabeth.crawford@franklincountyny.gov)>; 'mpoulin@fultoncountyny.gov' <[mpoulin@fultoncountyny.gov](mailto:mpoulin@fultoncountyny.gov)>; 'kevin.finnell@co.genesee.ny.us' <[kevin.finnell@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:kevin.finnell@co.genesee.ny.us)>; 'jstanzione@discovergreene.com' <[jstanzione@discovergreene.com](mailto:jstanzione@discovergreene.com)>;

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**Subject: NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint -- Your D.A. salary increases, the judicial salary increases on which they are based, & the violations of NY penal laws by state legislators within your jurisdictions**

**District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY)**

**ATT: President/Richmond County D.A. Michael McMahon  
NYS' 61 Other D.A. and Acting D.A. Members**

Above-attached are CJA's July 18, 2024 NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint and underlying July 17, 2024 ethics complaint to the Albany County Ethics Commission against Albany County D.A. Soares and its accompanying transmittal letter to him.

So that I may be guided accordingly, please let me hear from each of you by no later than two weeks from today, August 1, 2024, with respect to both the NOTICE and July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint, herewith filed with you.

Thank you.

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