

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 4:39 PM

To: 'shughes@timesunion.com'
Cc: 'ghearst@timesunion.com'; 'cseiler@timesunion.com';
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Subject: **Your Reporting on SOARES & STECK -- two corrupt public officers, as proven by fully-documented complaints to & against them**

Attachments: [6-4-20-complaint-albany-da-soares-revised.pdf](#);
[albany-7-23-20-da-foil.pdf](#)

TO: [Steve Hughes/Albany Times Union](#)

Following up our phone conversation shortly after 9 am this morning (518-454-5438) – aided by CJA’s webpages for “[ELECTIONS 2024: Cleaning up NY's Corrupt & Unconstitutional State Governance -- starting with its most important D.A. race: Albany County](#)” – it is essential that the [Albany Times Union](#) report on the posted primary-source EVIDENCE of the corruption in office of BOTH Albany D.A. Soares and Albany-representing Assemblyman Steck, NONE of which the [Albany Times Union](#) has reported to date.

Had any of it been reported, Soares could NOT have been re-elected as D.A. in 2016 and 2020 – and Steck could NOT have been re-elected as an assemblyman in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022. This year, 2024, must be different – and with your investigative reporting of CJA’s fully-documented complaints to and against them, it will be. Indeed, the \$22,000 bonus that Soares gave to himself – discovered by Albany County Comptroller Rizzo -- is “peanuts” compared to the more than \$500,000 in fraudulent salary raises that Soares has knowingly taken for himself, since 2013 – as a result of the “false instrument” August 29, 2011 Report of the Commission on Judicial Compensation and the “false instrument” December 24, 2015 Report of the (1st) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation -- about which I alerted Albany County in 2016, including by a [July 12, 2016 e-mail to then Albany County Attorney \[Daniel\] Lynch](#), to which Soares was *cc'd* – thereafter [e-mailing County Attorney Lynch a September 7, 2016 notice of right to intervene](#) in CJA’s monumental citizen-taxpayer action [CJA v. Cuomo...DiFiore](#) challenging what was going on by ten spectacular causes of action – the tenth specifically relating to aid to the counties for the D.A. salary increases, arising from the “false instrument” reports. Likewise, the \$22,000 bonus is “peanuts” in comparison to the approximately \$200,000 in fraudulent salary raises that Assemblyman Steck has knowingly taken, since 2019 – the result of the “false instrument” December 10, 2018 Report of the Committee on Legislative and Executive Compensation. This, quite apart from other monies that Steck and his fellow legislators have taken from a “slush fund” state budget that flagrantly violates express

constitutional, statutory, and legislative rule provisions. These violations, chronicled, through 2019, by [CJA v. Cuomo...DiFiore at the Court of Appeals](#), and, from 2020 to the present, by that lawsuit's successor, [CJA v. JCOPE, et al., now at the Appellate Division, Third Department](#), where my last submission, on January 22, 2024 ([#35, para 12](#)), recites the replicated constitutional violations and fraud of the then just-released FY2024-25 so-called "Article VII Bills".

As discussed, you already recognized that complaints are worthy of coverage by your February 16th article "[Former bureau chief alleges Albany County District Attorney Soares demoted her amidst domestic violence crisis](#)", which also identifies that you have made a "Freedom of Information request for a complete copy of Corbitt's complaint, as well as any records reflecting what the county found as a result of the complaint".

[CJA's webpages for the 2024 Albany D.A. race](#) furnishes you with "complete" complaints against Assemblyman Steck and D.A. Soares – and the two I showed you, in the order in which I showed them to you, were:

- (1) my [June 4, 2020 grand jury/public corruption complaint to D.A. Soares, specifying, at p. 5, that it was against Albany's seven state legislators, Assemblyman Steck, among them](#) based on the "false instrument" December 2018 Report of the Committee on Legislative and Executive Compensation by which the statewide electeds and all NY's 213 state legislators procured salary raises [[EVIDENTIARY WEBPAGE](#)];
- (2) my [October 14, 2016 conflict-of-interest/misconduct complaint to the Appellate Division, Third Department Attorney Grievance Committee against D.A. Soares](#) for "sitting on" my prior July 19, 2013, January 7, 2014, and June 21, 2016 corruption complaints to him concerning the "false instrument" August 29, 2011 and December 24, 2015 Reports and the violative state budget embodying them and ignoring, with his fellow 61 D.A.s, my subsequent correspondence to them based thereon [[EVIDENTIARY WEBPAGE](#)].

More complaints are forthcoming – and this was the context in which I mentioned to you that judges and D.A.s are in line to get further salary raises as a result of the "false instrument" December 4, 2023 Report of the (3rd) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, and that my most recent e-mails to Steck had alerted him to his duty with respect to same – on January 19, 2024, [here](#) and [here](#), as a member of the Assembly Judiciary Committee and of the Assembly Committee on Oversight, Analysis and Investigation.

Finally, I briefly discussed with you the necessity of your investigation of D.A. Soares' "Public Integrity Unit", its handling of public corruption complaints, and citizen access to the Albany grand jury – the subject of my [July 23, 2020 FOIL request to Albany County](#) that I showed you.

As **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE**, please let me hear from you by 9 am tomorrow morning, which is when I plan to call Albany County Comptroller Rizzo – and, thereafter, declared DA Candidate Kindlon and Albany County's Democratic and Republican parties. Meantime, I am cc'ing your superiors and colleagues at the [Albany Times Union](#) who, as reflected by the below, with the above-attached, have had years in which to discharge their First Amendment responsibilities to the public by investigating and reporting on the EVIDENCE of the corruption of D.A. Soares and Assemblyman Steck, which I provided the [Times Union](#) repeatedly. Their successors are herein also cc'd.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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elena@judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 7:05 AM
To: ghearst@timesunion.com; cseiler@timesunion.com; jjochnowitz@timesunion.com;
rsmith@thecity.nyc; BLyons@TimesUnion.Com; cbragg@timesunion.com; afries@TimesUnion.com;
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tureaderrep@timesunion.com; ttyler@timesunion.com; llewis@timesunion.com;
ghahn@timesunion.com; tshaffer@timesunion.com; tucitydesk@timesunion.com

Cc: breslin@nysenate.gov; amedore@nysenate.gov; taguec@nyassembly.gov;
McDonaldJ@nyassembly.gov; FahyP@nyassembly.gov; SteckP@nyassembly.gov;
SantabarbaraA@nyassembly.gov; David.Soares@albanycountyny.gov;
Linda.Griggs@albanycountyny.gov

Subject: Albany County Elections 2020 -- Informing Voters with EVIDENCE: public corruption/grand jury complaint vs Albany County's 7 state legislators -- 6 running for re-election -- which D.A. Soares, also running for re-election, is "sitting on"

TO: Albany Times Union

As you know, Albany County's seven state legislators – six running for re-election -- are subjects of a **fully-documented** public corruption/grand jury complaint, filed with Albany County District Attorney Soares, also running for re-election, who has been “sitting on” it. The complaint involves the “force of law” commission/committee scheme that gave all eight of them pay raises – and a legislature not operating at a remotely constitutional level.

The June 4, 2020 complaint, by the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), is above-attached – and below are the e-mails transmitting it and the above-attached July 23, 2020 FOIL request to D.A. Soares. CJA's substantiating evidentiary webpage for the complaint is here:
<http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2020-legislative/grand-juries.htm>.

As stated by the complaint, Albany County voters are entitled to know that their state legislators cannot be re-elected because they must be indicted for larceny and other corruption on EVIDENCE so DISPOSITIVE as to assure their convictions. So, too, retiring Senator Amedore, who will be pocketing a salary-based pension that is a further larceny.

To facilitate your inquiries of the complained-against state legislators and D.A. Soares, I am cc'ing them on this e-mail. What, if anything, do they deny or dispute. Let them start where the complaint starts:

[my July 16, 2019 e-mail to the Legislature's 15 stipend-receiving leaders](#) requesting that they forward the e-mail to the 198 other state legislators, with its attached [July 15, 2019 written NOTICE](#) and [substantiating analysis](#) establishing that the [December 10, 2018 Report of the Committee on Legislative and Executive Compensation](#) – raising their legislative salaries from \$79,500 to \$110,000 – is “a **fraud** on the People of the State of New York – and a **larceny** of their tax dollars’, violating a succession of penal laws, and that their duty was to void it, to return the pay-raise monies they had already received, and to initiate criminal prosecutions of the Committee’s four members and abetting attorneys.” The analysis is 46 pages, excluding [exhibits](#). Will they furnish you with their findings of fact and conclusions of law? If not, I’m sure ordinary Albany County citizens would be able to help you with what is obvious. Just accompany your story with links to the complaint and the evidentiary webpage so that they can see for themselves the open-and-shut, *prima facie* EVIDENCE that D.A. Soares has been withholding from an Albany County grand jury to maintain his own fraudulently-boosted D.A. salary, paid by Albany County taxpayers.

I am available to answer your questions and assist you, to the max -- on a story not only upending Albany County’s state legislative and D.A. races, but, additionally, ALL New York’s other state legislative races and its 14 other D.A. races – and **that’s for starters**.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 3:17 PM
To: 'David.Soares@albanycountyny.gov' <David.Soares@albanycountyny.gov>;
'Linda.Griggs@albanycountyny.gov' <Linda.Griggs@albanycountyny.gov>;
'AlbanyDA@albanycountyny.gov' <AlbanyDA@albanycountyny.gov>
Cc: 'Kimberly.Whipple@albanycountyny.gov' <Kimberly.Whipple@albanycountyny.gov>

Subject: Your wilful nonfeasance & violation of duties: June 4, 2020 public corruption complaint in support of an Albany County grand jury inquiry of "wilful misconduct in office of public officers", pursuant to Article I, §6 of the NYS Constitution...

TO: Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares

I have received no acknowledgment or other communication from you or from your Public Integrity Unit to my June 4, 2020 public corruption/grand jury complaint – just as, likewise, I received none to my four prior public corruption complaints dated July 19, 2013, January 7, 2014, June 21, 2016, and March 6, 2018.

The standard for grand jury indictments, “legally sufficient evidence”, is identified by your Public Integrity Unit, whose webpage about itself, <http://albanycountyda.com/Bureaus/PublicIntegrityUnit/about.aspx>, reads, in full:

“The Public Integrity Unit is a manifestation of the Albany County District Attorney’s commitment to abide by one standard of justice for all. No person, no matter their rank or affiliation, is above the law. Nowhere does this principle apply more meaningfully than to our elected officials. Endowed with the public trust, our elected officials and government employees are expected to act for the benefit of the citizens of Albany County, and not for personal profit or gain. On the other hand, great caution must be exercised to ensure that no person suffers personal or professional disrepute because of the dissemination of baseless or unfounded allegations of criminal conduct. For that reason, no criminal charge can be leveled unless and until supported by **legally sufficient evidence**. Integrity means that criminal charges are prosecuted in the courtrooms of our state, in a manner that is fair, just and above reproach.” (bold added).

Each of my five complaints not only furnished “legally sufficient evidence”, but evidence so *prima facie* and open-and-shut as to leave no doubt that a grand jury would speedily indict – and a trial jury speedily convict – the complained-against public officers and their accomplices.

As your wilful nonfeasance and violation of duties with respect to these fully-documented complaints raises reasonable questions as to your performance with respect to *other* public corruption complaints filed by *other* members of the public, I have today filed a FOIL/public information request with Albany County’s Public Information Officer to help answer those questions. A copy is attached.

Finally, I take this opportunity to correct the obvious error, at page 5 of the June 4, 2020 corruption/grand jury complaint, in the first name of Assemblywoman Fahy, which is Patricia, not Patrick. Please supersede with the attached complaint correcting page 5.

Thank you.

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Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:49 PM
To: 'David.Soares@albanycountyny.gov' <David.Soares@albanycountyny.gov>;
'Linda.Griggs@albanycountyny.gov' <Linda.Griggs@albanycountyny.gov>
Cc: 'Kimberly.Whipple@albanycountyny.gov' <Kimberly.Whipple@albanycountyny.gov>

Subject: Superseding CORRUPTION COMPLAINT in support of an Albany County grand jury inquiry of

"wilful misconduct in office of public officers", pursuant to Article I, §6 of the NYS Constitution -- & indictments based on CJA's July 15, 2019 NOTICE and analysis...

TO: Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares

Please supersede the corruption/grand jury complaint sent by the below June 4th e-mail, with the attached, correcting typos and making other essentially minor and clarifying changes. The superseding original will now be mailed.

Apologies for the inconvenience.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 11:57 PM
To: 'David.Soares@albanycountyny.gov' <David.Soares@albanycountyny.gov>;
'Linda.Griggs@albanycountyny.gov' <Linda.Griggs@albanycountyny.gov>;
'AlbanyDA@albanycountyny.gov' <AlbanyDA@albanycountyny.gov>
Cc: 'Kimberly.Whipple@albanycountyny.gov' <Kimberly.Whipple@albanycountyny.gov>

Subject: CORRUPTION COMPLAINT in support of an Albany County grand jury inquiry of "wilful misconduct in office of public officers", pursuant to Article I, §6 of the NYS Constitution -- & indictments based on CJA's July 15, 2019 NOTICE and analysis...

Attached is the Center for Judicial Accountability's above-entitled corruption complaint of today's date. Original will be mailed. CJA's webpage on which it will be posted is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2020-legislative/grand-juries.htm>

Thank you.

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