

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

Post Office Box 8101
White Plains, New York 10602

Tel. (914)421-1200

E-Mail: mail@judgewatch.org
Website: www.judgewatch.org

February 18, 2025

TO: House DOGE Subcommittee Chair Marjorie Taylor Greene
(Delivering on Government Efficiency)
Federal Communications Commission Chair Brendan Carr

FROM: Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

RE: Defunding NPR, PBS – & Firing the CPB’s Inspector General, for starters

I am director and co-founder of the New York-based non-partisan, non-profit citizens’ organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](http://www.judgewatch.org) and applaud your efforts to expose the truth about NPR and PBS.¹ I suggest you do so by examining how they handle complaints of biased and *knowingly* false journalism – and that you also examine how the Corporation for Public Broadcasting’s Inspector General handles complaints about NPR’s and PBS’ handling of complaints.

Both [NPR](http://www.npr.org) and [PBS](http://www.pbs.org) have “public editors”, purportedly to handle complaints. However, when I filed with each of them fully-documented complaints of *knowingly* false, corruption-abetting, election-

¹ February 3, 2025 press release: “[DOGE Subcommittee Chairwoman Greene Invites NPR and PBS Leaders to Address Biased News Coverage at Public Hearing](#)”:

“As stewards of tax dollars, NPR and PBS have an obligation to provide objective and accurate coverage that serves all Americans. Chairwoman Greene is requesting the CEOs appear for a public hearing...to explain why tax dollars should continue funding chronically biased reporting.

...During the 119th Congress, the DOGE Subcommittee is committed to investigating the activities of PBS and NPR and assessing the value of continued federal funding of these entities.”

[FCC Chair Brendan Carr's January 29, 2025 letter to NPR President/CEO Katherine Maher & PBS President/CEO Paula Kerger](#), stating:

“...I will be providing a copy of this letter to relevant Members of Congress because I believe this FCC investigation may prove relevant to an ongoing legislative debate. In particular, Congress is actively considering whether to stop requiring taxpayers to subsidize NPR and PBS programming. For my part, I do not see a reason why Congress should continue sending taxpayer dollars to NPR and PBS given the changes in the media marketplace since the passage of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.”

rigging journalism, they did NOT respond, at all – and when I brought this to the attention of the NPR and PBS presidents, other leadership, and boards of directors, they also did NOT respond, at all. When I turned to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting’s Inspector General to report this – and its [IG website](#) furnishes links to the NPR and PBS “public editors” for complaints about “programming, content, or bias” – it required four calls to their hotline before I got a hostile call back from its counsel whose dishonesty then and thereafter culminated in e-mails I sent to the CPB Inspector General and Deputy Inspector General, without response.

The foregoing is substantiated by primary-source, documentary evidence, all readily verifiable as it is posted on CJA’s website, www.judgewatch.org, on the following dedicated webpages, here hyperlinked:²

- [a webpage for my May 8, 2023 complaint to NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride](#), continuing to a September 17, 2024 new complaint, and then culminating in my [October 24, 2024 e-mail to NPR Leadership and, specifically, its President/CEO Katherine Maher, and its Board of Directors](#) entitled “STATUS? – OVERSIGHT REQUIRED – NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride has Corrupted her Office & Must be Removed for her Collusion in Fraudulent, Corruption-Abetting, Election-Rigging Journalism – the subject of 2 FULLY-DOCUMENTED complaints to her”. No response from them.
- [a webpage for my May 15, 2023 complaint to PBS Public Editor Ricardo Sandoval-Palos](#), continuing to a September 18, 2024 new complaint, culminating in my [October 24, 2024 e-mail to the PBS Senior Management Team and, specifically, its President/CEO Paula Kerger, and its Board of Directors](#) entitled “STATUS? – OVERSIGHT REQUIRED – PBS Public Editor Ricardo Sandoval-Palos has Corrupted his Office & Must be Removed for his Collusion in Fraudulent, Corruption-Abetting, Election-Rigging Journalism – the subject of 2 FULLY-DOCUMENTED complaints to him”. No response from them.
- [a webpage of my e-mail exchange with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Inspector General](#), culminating in my [January 6, 2025 e-mail to Inspector General Kimberly Howell](#), forwarding the December 24, 2024 e-mail I had sent to CPB Counsel/Assistant IG for Investigations Helen Mollick, to which I had *cc’d* IG Howell and Deputy IG William Richardson, III, without response from all three. Entitled “Unresponded-to Dec 24, 2024 e-mail – ‘Are CPB Inspector General Howell & Deputy Richardson Aware of Your Dec [10]th E-Mail – & Is It Acceptable to Them?’”, it stated:

² These hyperlinked webpages are also accessible from [CJA’s webpage for this letter](#), which is: <https://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/press-suppression/public-media/2025-defunding-npr-pbs-and-firing-cpb-ig.htm>.

“...Your December 10th e-mail misleadingly describes my complaints against NPR and PBS as about ‘their ‘suppression’ of news stories’ – and goes downhill from there.

First, your e-mail does NOT respond, at all, to my questions:

(1) ‘have [my] complaints [vs NPR and PBS] been reviewed by CPB Inspector General Kimberly Howell and Deputy Inspector General William Richardson III’?

(2) ‘where can I find the amount of federal monies that CPB has given to NPR and PBS as ‘Community Service grants’, etc. over the past ten years? Does CPB provide this information to Congress in annual reports – and, if so, where can I find these reports and the congressional committees to which they were furnished?’

What are your answers to these four questions?

Second, inasmuch as your e-mail states ‘the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) occasionally refers complaints involving program content and presentation to one or both of the public editors [of NPR and PBS]’, here are two OBVIOUS questions. Why have my complaints not been similarly referred to the NPR and PBS public editors? What was the criteria for OIG referral of those other complaints, not here met?

Third, inasmuch as your e-mail states ‘Neither we nor CPB has any oversight authority or responsibility over either of the public editors’ and ‘oversight or investigation of the public editors and content at local public media stations are not within the purview or authority of the CPB OIG’, here are three further OBVIOUS questions. Who has ‘oversight authority or responsibility’ over the completely MIA public editors of NPR and PBS? – and, additionally, over their completely MIA management and boards of directors? Are you saying that their TOTAL nonfeasance with respect to fully-documented complaints of fraudulent, corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism can simply be ignored by CPB and its OIG, as you do by your kiss-off final sentence: ‘We consider this matter closed and will take no further action?’

Please advise, as soon as possible. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. ...”
(underlining and capitalization in the original).

No response from CPB IG Howell or anyone else.

- a webpage entitled “[New position, funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to Expand Albany and Statewide Coverage Ahead of 2026 NY Governor’s Race](#)” pertaining to New York Public Radio’s January 6, 2025 announcement of its hire of former [Albany Times Union/Politico/Wall Street Journal](#) reporter Jimmy Vielkind for that position, posting my [February 11, 2025 e-mail to New York Public Radio’s Senior Vice President of News/Editor in Chief Audrey Cooper](#) entitled “OVERSIGHT REQUIRED: Your vaunted Capitol Bureau of WNYC/Gothamist & the New York Public News Network are engaging in corruption-abetting, election-rigging, ‘fake news’/fraudulent, agenda-driven journalism”. [No response from Senior VP Cooper](#), nor from two of the three cc’d Capitol Bureau reporters: Mr. Vielkind and Jon Campbell, about whom my May 8, 2023 complaint had focally complained. Only Jeongyoon Han, the new hire who had replaced the also focally-complained about Karen DeWitt, who had retired in June 2024, [e-mailed me back](#), rather promptly, and, without indicating cc’s to the others, stated: “Thank you for your kind note. I’d love to look at your emails now that they’ve surfaced out of my spam folder and am happy to be in touch in the future.” To this, [I promptly e-mailed](#) – cc’ing Senior VP/Editor in Chief Cooper and Messrs. Vielkind and Campbell – stating:

“Thank you for your e-mail, albeit my note was not ‘kind’. You are young, have much to learn – and I look forward to assisting you with evidence-based journalism that WILL make a difference – and instantaneously so – in completely non-partisan fashion, for the benefit of ALL the people.

I am available, at your convenience, no matter how early or late.”
(capitalization in the original).

That was the last I heard from Ms. Han, whose February 16, 2025 article, “[NY comptroller warns of potential federal cuts, questions rebate checks](#)” reports on the New York state budget as if unaware, [though now she is](#), that it is flagrantly unconstitutional, unlawful, and larcenous and that the state comptroller has been – and is now – a respondent/defendant in CJA’s lawsuits chronicling same.

Suffice to add that Senior VP/Editor in Chief Cooper’s non-response and green-light to the journalistic fraud of her reporters in concealing the unconstitutionality, unlawfulness, and larceny of the New York state budget [identically](#) repeats the behavior that necessitated my [May 8, 2023 complaint to NPR Public Editor McBride](#), complaining about her (at p. 3) and cc’ing her (at p. 12), as likewise, Mr. Campbell. So, we now come full circle.

Some final notes:

[First](#), as stated at page 1 of both my [May 8, 2023 complaint to NPR](#) and [May 15, 2023 complaint to PBS](#), their fraudulent, corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism [replicates, identically](#), the

same by “New York’s other public media, its for-profit press, and its non-profit and supposedly non-partisan internet newsrooms”. This for-profit media includes [The New York Times](#), [Politico](#), and [AP](#),³ which has had the same underlying “*prima facie*, documentary EVIDENCE of systemic corruption within New York’s three government branches and by its highest constitutional and public officers, for their independent verification and report”. So, too, “non-profit and supposedly non-partisan internet newsrooms”.

On June 16, 2023, I filed a complaint against ten of these “non-profit and supposedly non-partisan internet newsrooms” with the executive director of the [tax-exempt](#) non-profit [Institute for Nonprofit News \(INN\)](#), of which they are members, requesting determination as to:

- “(1) whether these ten INN members have comported themselves in a manner remotely consistent with [INN standards](#), the [Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists](#), and with what their websites purport about themselves;
- (2) whether these ten INN members, by their websites and solicitations, are defrauding citizens and philanthropies into making monetary donations based on representations about themselves and their journalism that are materially false;
- (3) whether these ten New York INN members are, in fact, partisan, some flagrantly so, in violation of their 501(c)(3) tax status, thereby defrauding the IRS.^{fn3}”

³ The Trump administration has RIGHTLY already cancelled government subscriptions to these fraud-purveying, corruption-enabling, election-rigging media. “[Trump orders end to government-paid news subscriptions](#)” [Straight Arrow News](#), February 7, 2025.

^{fn3} Three years ago you spoke about the strictures of 501(c)(3) in the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism’s September 28, 2020 webinar ‘[Partisan Media and the 2020 Election: Redefining the Local News Crisis](#)’. You stated that nonprofit news entities are required to be ‘very evenhanded’ and that this is ‘designed to protect the consumer so that the consumer isn’t giving to a charity that really is working explicitly or implicitly to bring about a change in government or be politically active’. That being said, you conceded that many of INN’s members do have ‘a clear point of view and a stated point of view’, but, according to you, this is not a problem, ‘as long as it is explicit’ and that the key thing...is transparency so that the reader knows where this publication is coming from’. You deemed the problem to be where partisan news entities say they are nonpartisan, but are not. You described it as an ‘underground point of view masquerading as objective journalism where we get into trouble’.

According to INN’s ‘[Explore Membership](#)’ webpage: ‘INN members do not advocate or operate in a way that promotes any legislation, policies, government action or outcomes, though policy or legislative changes may be a consequence of their reporting....Outlets with strong points of view will be accepted on a case-by-case basis. They must produce original reporting that does not misrepresent facts, selectively choose sources or selectively publish stories in an attempt to advance a policy or cause. In other

There was no response from INN's executive director – or from any of the ten and, ultimately, eleven, complained-against members, all *cc'd*, the most prominent being Pro Publica – and this is reflected by [CJA's webpage for the June 11, 2023 complaint to INN](#), with its September 19, 2024 inquiry to the “Leadership Team, Management & Staff”, without response, culminating in an [October 15, 2024 complaint against them all to INN's Board of Directors, Standards Task Force, and Advisory Groups](#) “for Abetting Fraud & Violations of Standards by INN Members, including 501(c)(3) Proscriptions on Partisanship & Ignoring 3 Requests for Assistance Based Thereon”, reiterated on [October 16](#) and [October 24, 2024](#), without response.

Second, the election of New York Attorney General Letitia James in 2018, her re-election in 2022, and the election in 2021 of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, a top deputy to A.G. James' predecessors, Eric Schneiderman and Barbara Underwood, were achieved by the collusion of New York's non-profit and for-profit media, in willfully not reporting on the evidence of their corruption, presented by the record of the citizen-taxpayer action, [CJA v. Cuomo, et al.](#), suing the highest constitutional officers of New York's three branches, the A.G., among them, for corrupting state governance, involving the massive, policy-laden, “OFF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RAILS” state budget, rife with constitutional, statutory, and legislative rule violations and billions of dollars of larcenies of taxpayer monies,⁴ including for their own salaries – a lawsuit commenced in September 2016 and which, in the absence of any legitimate defense, the A.G. defended by litigation fraud and was rewarded by fraudulent decisions, “throwing” the case, at every level, up to the New York Court of Appeals which, [exactly five years ago today, February 18, 2020](#), issued the last of its five fraudulent orders, denying review by right and by leave – and which, since June 2022, has been continued by [CJA v. JCOPE, et al.](#), and, since March 2023, by [CJA v. Commission on Legislative, and Executive Compensation, et al.](#). A.G. James is a named respondent/defendant in both lawsuits, sued for corruption – and she has defended each by litigation fraud, for which she has been rewarded by fraudulent judicial decisions, “throwing” the cases. Both are still LIVE, however, pending before the New York Court of Appeals, on appeals of right ([here](#) and [here](#)), with A.G. James, once again, as in 2019-2020 in [CJA v. Cuomo, et al.](#) ([here](#)), being unremitting in her litigation fraud, before the state's highest court.

words, they report with impartiality, attempting to achieve fairness in content of distinct points of view with objectivity and dedication to truth.'

On the same subject, your [‘Membership Standards’ webpage](#) states: ‘Cause communications have a valuable role in information systems, but they differ in purpose and mission from independent news that serves only to inform and educate, leaving it to the news consumer to determine their own position or course of action. INN members are independent and do not have advocacy goals or produce content intended to advance a cause...’” (underlining and hyperlinking in the original).

⁴ “About 40% of the state budget is supported by the federal government”, so-reported by Ms. Han's February 16, 2025 article “[NY comptroller warns of potential federal cuts, questions rebate checks](#)”. An August 2024 article “[Which states rely the most on federal aid?](#)” puts New York second, at \$110.2 billion, after California.

In that connection, to no avail, in 2021 and 2023, I tried to alert then former President Trump to the situation – constructing for that purpose two webpages on CJA’s website. The first, a “[June 4, 2021 Message to Mr. Trump](#)”, pertaining to A.G. James and to then Manhattan D.A. Cyrus Vance, Jr., and the second, an “[April 3, 2023 Message to Mr. Trump](#)” pertaining to successor Manhattan D.A. Bragg.

The framing paragraphs of the June 4, 2021 Message summed up what was going on, none of which had been reported by New York’s press then – or since:

“DEAR MR. TRUMP:

Your NY Democratic prosecutors – NY Attorney General Letitia James & Manhattan D.A. Cyrus Vance, Jr. – who are pursuing you because ‘*no one is above the law*’, are themselves ‘*above the law*’ – and while you were still president, the FBI & your acting US Attorneys for NY had the OPEN-and-SHUT, *prima facie* EVIDENCE to indict them & scores of other NY public officers for corruption and fraud involving the NY state budget and ‘false instrument’ pay raises they stole for themselves. The highest of these public officers – ALL Democrats – are Governor Andrew Cuomo and the heads of NY’s Legislative and Judicial branches.

...

MR. TRUMP, the reason you know nothing about any of this is because NY’s mostly left-leaning press has, for years, been complicit in the systemic corruption of NY’s governance – involving all three government branches. It has concealed, totally, the EVIDENCE of what has been going on and, by its knowingly false reporting and editorializing, has sped the collapse of constitutional checks and balances, including by its rigging of NY’s elections. Here’s [CJA’s 30-year archive chronicling this](#) – and here’s our two lawsuits aimed at securing media accountability, the first vs [The New York Times](#), and the second vs [Gannett](#) – both ‘thrown’ at trial and appellate levels by fraudulent judicial decisions of NY’s state courts because there was NO legitimate defense to either lawsuit. Here’s also CJA’s most recent and IMMEDIATELY relevant chronicling of the ‘fake news’, corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism that has deprived the People of the State of New York of what they have needed to know about their public officers and state governance: [last year, before the 2020 elections](#) and, after, in [November](#) and in [December](#), and this year: in [January, February-March, April-May](#), and thus far, in [June](#).

Mr. Trump, from [this website](#), you have the EVIDENCE to PROVE that you are being invidiously and selectively investigated by AG James and DA Vance who have corrupted their offices and are pocketing fraudulent pay raises for their crimes – and that the media has known about this, but reported NOTHING. You have a slam-dunk opportunity to not only help yourself, but, simultaneously, to do a great public good: to ‘drain the swamp’ that is NY’s governance and expose – definitively and

beyond all doubt – its ‘fake news’ press. Go to it!” (italics, capitalization, and hyperlinking in the original).⁵

Third, I have spent over two decades searching for “honest press scholarship” – and have found none. This is why my [June 16, 2023 complaint to INN](#) expressly requested “assistance in bringing CJA’s archive of primary-source documentary evidence of press performance into scholarship” – and such was highlighted by my [October 16, 2024 complaint to INN’s Board of Directors, Standards Task Force, and Advisory Groups](#), without response.

This nation’s universities, with their centers for media studies and journalism schools – all [tax-exempt](#) and benefitting from federal grants predicated on their supposed unbiased, fact-based research – whose media centers/J-school faculties consist of former and current journalists and media lawyers, are, in fact, organs of propaganda about the media, including in promoting taxpayer-supported journalism and tax-exempt non-profit journalism to which philanthropies and members of the public can make tax-free contributions. The same is true with free-standing institutes of purported media research as, for instance, the [tax-exempt Poynter Institute for Media Studies](#), whose senior vice president and chair of its Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership is NPR Public Editor McBride.⁶ As to this, my [October 14, 2024 complaint against her to NPR President Maher, its Leadership and Board of Directors](#) stated:

“Meantime, I am *cc’ing* Poynter Institute President Neil Brown as Poynter Institute must take steps to remove Ms. McBride as its senior vice president and chair of its Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership. So that Mr. Newmark may be apprised of the situation – and undertake his own investigation of McBride’s

⁵ The “swamp” of corruption that is New York’s governance is enabled by the corruption of its “public protection” oversight entities, such as the Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Appellate Division Attorney Grievance Committees, and the Unified Court System’s Inspector General, to which Congresswoman Elise Stefanik and others filed complaints on behalf of former President Trump. For more than 30 years, I have furnished the media with the evidence that these entities are corrupt “window-dressing”, as, for instance, the record of [my February 11, 2021 complaint to the Attorney Grievance Committees for AG James’ disbarment and referral to criminal authorities](#) – the same as hyperlinked by my [June 4, 2021 webpage “Message to Mr. Trump”](#) – but they refuse to investigate and report, instead publishing articles as if they are legitimately functioning, as they did pertaining to Rudolph Giuliani’s disbarment.

⁶ Under the title “What is different about this Public Editor?”, [NPR’s webpage for its Public Editor](#) states:

“NPR’s Public Editor has traditionally been an NPR staff member. In 2020, NPR entered into a unique partnership with The Poynter Institute for Media Studies to have Kelly McBride, Poynter’s senior vice president and a nationally recognized ethicist, serve as the Public Editor. By going outside NPR, the aim is to further elevate the independence and visibility of the Public Editor as well as bring Poynter’s highly respected brand and resources to help serve the NPR audience.”

unethical and conflict-of-interest-driven conduct as head of an ‘Ethics and Leadership’ center bearing his name, not to mention as NPR Public Editor – I request that President Brown forward this e-mail to him. To further ensure that this is done, I am also *cc*’ing Margaret Sullivan, executive director of the Craig Newmark Center for Journalism Ethics and Security at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, with a request that she, too, forward this e-mail to Mr. Newmark. Their confirmation of same would be greatly appreciated. NPR Public Editor McBride is also *cc*’d, for her explanation and rebuttal to the foregoing.”

No response from anyone – including Poynter President Brown and Columbia University J-School/Craig Newmark Center for Journalism Ethics Executive Director Sullivan, to whom I additionally sent an [October 31, 2025 e-mail](#), stating:

“I have received no confirmation from either of you that you forwarded my below October 14th e-mail to Mr. Newmark, as requested. Did you – and when?

Also, what steps are you taking to bring the primary-source, documentary evidence of fraudulent, corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism, furnished by my October 14th e-mail, into scholarship by your two Craig Newmark ethics centers?

Please let me hear from you without further delay.” (underlining added).

No response.

I have not filed a complaint with Columbia University or its Graduate School of Journalism against Craig Newmark Center for Journalism Ethics Executive Director Sullivan for her conflict-of-interest-driven unethical conduct⁷ because I already know it is pointless. The proof includes the [fully documented December 9, 2020 complaint I filed with Columbia University’s Research Integrity Office](#) against the J-School for its methodologically-flawed, conflict-of-interest-driven media scholarship about “news deserts” and the supposed promising answer of non-profit, public-supported journalism. CJA’s webpage for the complaint, which went nowhere, can be accessed from

⁷ Apart from her myriad of personal and professional relationships, Ms. Sullivan was the fifth and longest-serving of the six public editors the New York Times had had before eliminating the position in [May 2017](#). From my October 14 and October 24, 2024 e-mails to her, Ms. Sullivan may be presumed to have recognized that she had personal knowledge and culpability, as 11 years earlier I had filed a [July 28, 2013 complaint with her, as NYT public editor](#), which ended with nothing – notwithstanding it established a continuum of Times’ cover-up reporting and editorializing, protecting then Governor Cuomo, then AG Schneiderman, the still current comptroller, top legislative leaders, the chief judge, pertaining to judicial pay raises and the budget – likewise replicated by New York’s other press. CJA’s webpage for the July 28, 2013 complaint entitled “Complaint of Knowingly Misleading & Materially Incomplete Reporting on an Important Issue of Legitimate Public Concern” and the exchange of [e-mail spanning to August 15, 2013](#) based thereon, is [here](#).

CJA's series of webpages entitled "[Institutes of Journalism & 'Media Scholarship'](#)".

* * *

I am available to answer questions – including under oath. I would be honored to testify at such hearings as you will be holding. In any event, I ask that this statement be submitted for the record of the hearings. I affirm it all to be true, under penalties of perjury.

Kindly forward the letter to all who are committed to establishing the truth about NPR, PBS, and their collusion with other media in "election interference" and other violations of First Amendment responsibilities. There is much defunding, firing, and prosecutions that need to take place.⁸

Thank you.

s/Elena Sassower

⁸ With respect to prosecutions, please forward this letter to U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, as it will greatly assist her investigations of A.G. James and D.A. Bragg, reported by Ms. Han's February 6, 2025 article "[U.S. Attorney General vows to investigate two of New York's top lawyers](#)", to which I cited and linked by [my February 7, 2025 e-mail](#) to her entitled "A gift to welcome you to your new job, as a Capitol News Bureau reporter for the NY Public News Network – Explosive evidence, complete unreported, about the state budget, A.G. James, & D.A. Bragg".