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Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 2:05 PM
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Subject: **The Battle for Fact-Based, Truthful Journalism is Being Fought by a Major Federal Lawsuit vs The NYT & 33 Other Press Defendants. Will you report it?**
Attachments: [no18-1-oct29-2025-verified-amended-complaint-signed-by-zerman.pdf](#)

TO: [Guardian U.S. Media Columnist Margaret Sullivan](#)
& [Executive Director-Craig Newmark Center for Journalism Ethics and Security at Columbia Graduate School of Journalism](#)
& [Blogger at "American Crisis: Can Journalism Save Democracy?"](#)

My below e-mail to you of today's date, sent to your e-mail address at [The Guardian](#), was returned as [undeliverable](#). I am, therefore, forwarding it to you at your e-mail address at Columbia J-School.

CJA's federal lawsuit against [The New York Times](#) and 33 other press defendants is not new to you. I alerted you to it by two November 19th e-mails, [my e-mail to "Beat the Press" blogger Dean Baker](#) and [my e-mail to "The Contrarian" blog](#), to which you were cc'd. When were you planning to report on the lawsuit, or, consistent with professional codes and civic duties, forward it to unconflicted journalists who would? I received no response from you or from the other recipients of those November 19th e-mails, herein cc'd.

By the way, [Contrarian](#) authors [Jen Rubin](#) and [Norm Eisen](#) are each lawyers with decades of experience as litigators. Do they deny, as below stated, that evident from the verified amended complaint is that "there is NO defense to it, factually or legally – and that the SOLE issue will be the magnitude of compensatory, presumed, and punitive damages, a jury determination that will reasonably be many billions of dollars"?

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: elena@judgewatch.org <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 10:03 AM

To: 'jeremy.barr@theguardian.com' <jeremy.barr@theguardian.com>;
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Subject: The Battle for Fact-Based, Truthful Journalism is Being Fought by a Major Federal Lawsuit vs The NYT & 33 Other Press Defendants. Will you report it?

TO: THE GUARDIAN

U.S. Media Reporter Jeremy Barr

U.S. Media Columnist Margaret Sullivan

Media Editor Michael Savage

FORMER GUARDIAN JOURNALIST MELANIE PHILLIPS

The battle for fact-based, truthful journalism is being fought by a major federal lawsuit against The New York Times & 33 other press defendants, seeking judicial recognition of causes of action for “journalistic fraud” and “institutional reckless disregard for truth – proposed by scholars as viable under the First Amendment more than 20 years ago and then buried by them and other scholars, with resulting and accelerating democracy-destroying consequences.

The federal lawsuit, brought “*on behalf of the People of the State of New York & the Public Interest*” by the nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens’ organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#), of which I am director and co-founder, focuses on the 2025 press-rigged electoral win of Zohran Mamdani as New York City mayor. Above-attached and here-linked is the October 29, 2025 verified amended complaint, signed by CJA’s counsel on January 5, 2026 and refiled. It furnishes all the particulars, with hyperlinks to the open-and-shut, *prima facie* evidence. This includes my March 14, 2025 e-mail to Mamdani entitled “ELECTIONS ARE A TIME OF ACCOUNTABILITY...”, then supplemented by my March 17th e-mail to him, both furnished to Mamdani again when I cc’d him on my March 18th and March 20th e-mails to the press. He did not respond. Nor did the press – and among my other e-mails to the NYT are my July 11th e-mail, my July 13th e-mail, my August 9th e-mail, and my September 18th e-mail.

Lawyers and legal scholars on whom you rely for expert opinion should be able to confirm for you what will be obvious from your examination of the verified amended complaint, namely, that there is NO defense to it, factually or legally – and that the SOLE issue will be the magnitude of compensatory, presumed, and punitive damages, a jury determination that will reasonably be many billions of dollars. The district court’s unprecedented handling of the case – as reflected by my December 19th affidavit – reinforces this.

Will you report on the lawsuit?

I am available to answer questions – and would welcome the opportunity to do so.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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