

Center for Judicial Accountability

From: Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 1:02 PM
To: 'gwitkin@publicintegrity.org'
Cc: Nicholas Kusnetz (nkusnetz@publicintegrity.org); Bill Buzenberg (bbuzenberg@publicintegrity.org); David Howard King (dking@gothamgazette.com); 'davidhowardking@gmail.com'
Subject: Building a Roster of Journalists & Would-Be Journalists for Corruption Stories in Search of Writers, Etc.
Attachments: 4-5-12-press-release.pdf; 3-15-13-press-release-judiciary-slush-fund.pdf; 3-31-13-press-release-unfinished-budget-story.pdf

Dear Gordon,

Greatly appreciate your returning my April 29th voice mail message. Here's the e-mail, with attachments, sent to Nick on April 2nd & 3rd – and reflecting the conversation I had with him on April 1st.

I got no response from Nick to this e-mail, other than an April 3rd e-mail acknowledgment that he'd "take a look". The voice mail I left for you on April 29th was when I was unable to find Nick's direct number. Upon finding it yesterday, I was able to reach him– and our conversation is reflected in the e-mail I thereupon sent him, with a copy to Executive Director Buzenberg, for whom I left a voice mail message immediately upon speaking with Nick. I will forward my yesterday's e-mail to you next.

There is NO WAY that real good-government, public-integrity reform can be achieved in NYS without journalists writing about the pervasive corruption that infests our state (& local) governments – all branches and at all levels.

Please find us ONE civic-minded, muckraking journalist – and let it be the start of a roster of such journalists that the Center for Public Integrity & its State Integrity Investigation Project can furnish good-government activists with corruption stories needing writers. The Center for Public Integrity would be performing a great public service by such roster – and by setting up a website bulletin board for activists and writers, or sending out regular e-mail blasts about opportunities for writers looking for corruption stories and about activists looking for writers. Surely, your funders – including the Omidyar Network & the Rita Allen Foundation who generously provided \$1,500,000 for the State Accountability Project – could be counted on to provide the relatively little money that would be required for this, especially when its results could be SO BIG.

I will call you next week – maybe, on my birthday, May 8th – when hopefully you'll be able to give me some good news.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
914-455-4373

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 12:39 AM

To: 'nkusnetz@publicintegrity.org'

Subject: FW: Follow-up to my phone call to you yesterday about David Howard King & other NYS reporters

This was returned as undeliverable because of an "invalid recipient" – which I don't understand, as the address is correct.

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

Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 1:28 AM

To: 'nkusnetz@publicintegrity.org.'

Cc: 'davidhowardking@gmail.com'

Subject: Follow-up to my phone call to you yesterday about David Howard King & other NYS reporters

TO: [Nick Kusnetz/Center for Public Integrity](#)

As discussed, where is the Center for Public Integrity's roster of journalists to whom our nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization can turn with the MAJOR story, "Who Judges the Judges?" -- <http://old.gothamgazette.com/article/Albany/20111114/204/3636> -- initially reported on November 14, 2011 by David Howard King, the reporter upon whom the Center relied for its "State Integrity Investigation" of New York State and who used us a source for the information contained in its "judicial accountability" category. It was based on Mr. King's research that the "State Integrity Investigation" gave New York State an "overall D" – with a "D", as well, for "judicial accountability".

The below e-mail – to which Mr. King was an indicated recipient -- is what I sent to the reporters of the "Capital Press Room: New York State Legislative Correspondents Association" – on the day his November 14, 2011 article appeared. Not a single one of these reporters – or any others -- followed up. Nor did Mr. King follow-up on his own article.

Attached are the three subsequent press releases I sent to Mr. King and the state legislative correspondents – the most recent sent the day before yesterday. .

Please advise as to how good government citizen-activists, such as we, can make ANY progress in improving the scandalous absence of state integrity when there is not a single journalist verifying – or even reporting on-- the corruption of state government that we have resoundingly documented.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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elena@judgewidth.org

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

Sent: Monday, November 14, 2011 11:50 AM

To: (erin.billups@ny1news.com); Adam Sichko (asichko@bizjournals.com); Andrew Hawkins (ahawkins@nycapitolnews.com); Betty Flood (EFMNEWS@aol.com); Bill Hammond (whammond@nydailynews.com); Brendan Scott (bscott@nypost.com); Cara Matthews (clmatthe@gannett.com); Casey Seiler (cseiler@timesunion.com); Chuck Custer (news@wgy.com); Elizabeth Benjamin (liz.benjamin@ynn.com); Fredric Dicker (fud31@aol.com); Glenn Blain (gblain@nydailynews.com); hakim@nytimes.com; Jacob Gershman (jacob.gershman@gmail.com); Jim Odato (jodato@timesunion.com); Jimmy Vielkind (jvielkind@timesunion.com); Joe Spector (jspector@gannett.com); Joel Stashenko (jstashenko@alm.com); Karen DeWitt (kdewitt@wxxi.org); Ken Lovett (klnews@aol.com); Kyle Hughes (khughes@nysnys.com); Matt Ryan (mryan@wmht.org); Michael Gormley (mgormley@ap.org); Michael Virtanen (mvirtanen@ap.org); Rick Karlin (rkarlin@timesunion.com); Stephen Acunto Jr. (sacunto@cinn.com); Susan

Arbetter (susan_arbetter@wcny.org); Teri Weaver (tweaver@syracuse.com); Tom Precious (tprecious@buffnews.com); Yancey Roy (yancey.roy@newsday.com)

Cc: 'David King'

Subject: Invitation: Today's Gotham Gazette: "Who Judges the Judges?"

TO: Capital Press Room: New York State Legislative Correspondents Association

David King, State Government Editor for the Gotham Gazette, leads with an article today, "*Who Judges the Judges?*", which he features as "This Month's Story...". It is the first to provide a glimmer of reporting on:

- the aborted 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the Commission on Judicial Conduct; and
- CJA's October 27, 2011 Report on the judicial pay raise issue, delivered to Governor Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Skelos, Assembly Speaker Silver, & Chief Judge Lippman

We have posted David's article on the "Latest News" webpage of CJA's website – from which you can easily access both the videos of the 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee hearings and CJA's October 27, 2011 Report. Here's the direct link: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/cja/latest-news.htm>

We look forward to providing you ALL possible assistance so that you can expand upon David's groundbreaking reporting of what is a MAJOR SCANDAL – propelling the long overdue, non-partisan, good-government reforms essential to safeguarding our constitution, democracy, and rule of law.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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