

Subj: **ATT: Marianne Giordano, Politics Editor/Metro: BALANCING COVERAGE**
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From: Judgewatchers
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TO: **Marianne Giordano, Politics Editor/Metro**
New York Times

FROM: **Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator**
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RE: **September 26, 2002 letter:**
"ELECTION COVERAGE: Exposing the REAL Attorney
General Spitzer -- *not* the P.R. version"

DATE: **October 1, 2002**

This follows up my faxed September 26, 2002 letter -- to which I have received no response.

Yesterday, I left a phone message for you (212-556-1533) with Michael McElroy, requesting to speak with you. Earlier today, I left a similar message with Campbell Robertson. I wanted to leave a voice message, but Mr. Robertson told me you reserve your voice mail for reporters. He stated, however, that if I e-mailed a message for you at metro@nytimes.com, it would be transmitted to you.

Please advise when you will be available to discuss the politically-explosive story proposal outlined by my September 26th letter -- and whether you have obtained from James McKinley the two cartons of documentation substantiating the proposal.

I note that today's Times continues the typically one-sided coverage of Attorney General Spitzer -- reporting on the latest lawsuit he has initiated, which Mr. Spitzer has accompanied with the usual panoply of press releases, press conferences, and television appearances. While I do not deny or dispute the importance of a lawsuit addressing issues of conflict of interest, integrity and accountability in the financial world, the public is entitled to know how Mr. Spitzer handles these very issues as they arise in the thousands of lawsuits defended by his Law Department.

The documentation I provided Mr. McKinley over three months ago establishes that Mr. Spitzer completely disregards issues of conflicts of interest, integrity, and accountability as *they relate to him and his staff*. This documentation not only includes a mountain of letters to Mr. Spitzer throughout his tenure in office, but THREE fully-documented sanctions

motions against Mr. Spitzer *personally*, filed in Supreme Court, the Appellate Division, and the Court of Appeals, fully detailing his fraudulent defense tactics, as well as formal ethics and criminal complaints against Mr. Spitzer, *personally*, which are part thereof. These ethics and criminal complaints were long ago filed with the NYS Ethics Commission, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and the Manhattan District Attorney and are joined with formal ethics and criminal complaints against Governor Pataki.

As therein demonstrated, because Mr. Spitzer and Governor Pataki enjoy a multitude of relationships with judges, as well as with ethics and criminal authorities, all of whom refuse to respect the most fundamental conflict of interest rules, these wrongdoing public officers have been wholly "above the law" -- escaping the ethics and criminal consequences for their serious and substantial official misconduct, particularized with painstaking detail and substantiating proof. I specifically reviewed this with Mr. McKinley last June, leaving him the two cartons of meticulously-organized documentation (in labelled file folders) for his *independent* verification.

To enable you to more conveniently and immediately share my September 26th letter with others at The Times -- especially the Editorial Board which, presumably, will be otherwise endorsing Mr. Spitzer for re-election in the coming weeks -- I am attaching it herewith.

Election Day is only five weeks away. Please let me hear from you by Thursday, October 3rd as to whether you will be directing/suggesting that The Times balance its political coverage of Mr. Spitzer by pursuing the September 26th proposal for election coverage -- and whether, as here requested, you have provided such proposal to the Editorial Board so that its evaluation of Mr. Spitzer's "record" may be informed by the readily-verifiable, fully-documented facts, which Mr. McKinley has heretofore been suppressing from coverage.

Otherwise, please advise as to the names of supervisory personnel at The Times with whom I may discuss this matter directly and to whom the two cartons of documentation should be forwarded.

Thank you.