

**CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.\***

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Director  
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June 30, 2011

TO: New York's Judicial Compensation Commission  
William C. Thompson, Jr., Chairman  
Richard Cotton  
William Mulrow  
Robert Fiske, Jr.  
Kathryn S. Wylde  
James Tallon, Jr.  
Mark Mulholland

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

RE: AGAIN – Is NY's Judicial Compensation Commission Violating the Open Meetings Law & its Video Broadcast Obligations under Executive Order #3?

Today is the 91<sup>st</sup> day of the Commission's statutorily-fixed 150-day existence. Yet, there has been no report by the press about the Commission's organizational meeting which, according to the now two-week old June 16<sup>th</sup> Reuters article "New York judges ask for 41-percent raise, retroactive pay", was to have been held by today.

Has the Commission held that meeting? If so, when? Was it before or after you received the Center for Judicial Accountability's June 23, 2011 letter alerting you to the Commission's obligations under the Open Meetings Law & Executive Order #3?

Enclosed, again, is our June 23<sup>rd</sup> letter – to which we have received no response: either as to that issue or as to the disqualifying conflict of interest of Chairman Thompson, also the subject of the letter.

Likewise, we have received no response to our follow-up e-mail, sent two days ago, whose "subject" line was the question: "Is NY's Judicial Compensation Commission Violating the

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\* Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) is a national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, working to ensure that the processes of judicial selection and discipline are effective and meaningful.

EXC-2

Open Meetings Law & its Video Broadcast Obligations under Executive Order #3?" and whose first paragraph was as follows:

"I have received no notice of the Commission's upcoming organizational meeting, setting its timetable and what information it will be seeking. Has the Commission notified the public and press – or is it intending to violate New York Open Meetings Law and its video broadcast obligations under Executive Order #3?"

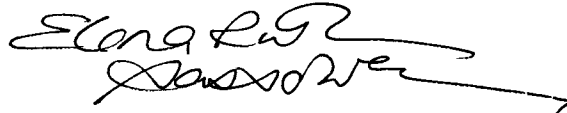
What is your response?

New York State has a website for meeting notices and webcasts – <http://www.nysegov.com/webcast.cfm>. There are no meetings or webcasts identified for the Judicial Compensation Commission, which, although subject to the Open Meetings Law and Executive Order #3, is not even listed.

Please advise immediately.

Needless to say, CJA, witnesses from the 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee hearings, and other members of the taxpaying public wish to attend the Commission's meetings, as is our right.

Thank you.



Enclosure: CJA's June 23, 2011 letter (with enclosures)

- cc: Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
- Temporary Senate President Dean G. Skelos
- Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver
- Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman
- Senate Minority Leader John L. Sampson
- Senate Judiciary Committee
  - Chairman John J. Bonacic
  - Ranking Member Ruth Hassell-Thompson
  - The Committee's 21 Other Members – including Senator Eric Adams
- Witnesses at the 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee Hearings
- New York Committee on Open Government
- Richard H. Dolan, Esq.
- Reuters
  - Jennifer Golson/Reporter
  - Jesse Wegman/Editor
- Other Press