

**CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.**

*Post Office Box 3002  
Southampton, New York 11969*

*Tel. (631) 377-3583*

*E-Mail: [cja@judgewatch.org](mailto:cja@judgewatch.org)  
Website: [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)*

*Elena Ruth Sassower, Director  
Doris L. Sassower, President*

July 21, 2011

TO: New York 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: The Present Uselessness of the Commission's Website

Apparently the Commission has taken down from its website, [www.judicialcompensation.ny.gov](http://www.judicialcompensation.ny.gov), the video of its July 12, 2011 organizational meeting. Please advise why this has been done.

Please further advise when the Commission will be posting the video of its July 20, 2011 public hearing – and whether it will be stenographically transcribed, with the transcription also posted. Indeed, there was no stenographer present at the hearing – a fact I only realized when the hearing was over. Is this the result of austerity measures necessitated by the catastrophic financial situation of our State, to which Budget Director Robert Megna attested at the hearing?

Finally, although the Commission established its website following June 23<sup>rd</sup> letter requesting that it do so, it has not responded to that letter's related request that the Commission post thereon

“relevant background materials, such as the FULL record of the judiciary's lawsuits underlying the Court of Appeals' self-serving, constitution-repudiating February 23, 2010 decision on judicial compensation[fn], as well as ALL submissions the Commission receives on the judicial compensation issue.”

As of today – DAY 112 of the Commission's statutorily-fixed 150-day existence – and notwithstanding our July 12, 2011 e-mail to the Commission reiterating our request that it post

“ALL submissions it has received” – not a single submission has been posted and no “relevant background materials”, other than the statute creating the Commission and a biography of the Commissioners.

Please directly state whether the Commission intends to post “ALL submissions it has received, especially in opposition to increased compensation”. Chairman Thompson’s July 19, 2011 letter to me that our FOIL requests would cost us \$.25 per page, unless the materials could be “provided in another media”, does not answer that question.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Lipton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.