

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 8, 2019 4:16 PM  
**To:** jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com

**Subject:** Your professional obligations to The Wall Street Journal & its readers

**Attachments:** [9-3-19-foil-public-campaign-finance.pdf](#);  
[8-21-19-nylj-ltr.pdf](#)

**TO: Jimmy Vielkind/The Wall Street Journal**

I have received no response to you from my below August 21<sup>st</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup> e-mails. Please advise why – in view of your prior Wall Street Journal articles:

- November 20, 2018: "[Commission Mulls Raises for Cuomo and New York Lawmakers](#)";
- December 6, 2018: "[New York State Lawmakers Set to Receive First Pay Raise in Two Decades](#)";
- December 11, 2018: "[For State Lawmakers, Hefty Pay Raises Come With Strings Attached](#)";
- December 14, 2018: "[Lawsuit Targets State Lawmakers' Pay Raises](#)";
- January 11, 2019: "[Conservative Group Asks Judge to Halt Albany Lawmakers' Raises](#)";
- August 18, 2019: "[Fight Over New Outside-Pay Limits Could Affect Who Returns to Albany](#)";
- August 25, 2019: "[Working Families Party Fights to Keep Fusion Voting](#)".

Am I correct in assuming that your non-response to my August 21<sup>st</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup> e-mails is because you suffer from a multitude of conflicts of interest in reporting on the unconstitutionality and unlawfulness of these "force of law" commissions/committees, challenged by the *CJA v. Cuomo* citizen-taxpayer action, now at the Court of Appeals. And when, if ever, were you planning to report on its unprecedented challenge to the constitutionality and lawfulness of the ENTIRE \$175 billion New York State budget. Do you not think that Wall Street Journal readers would expect to be informed about what you have known about, for years: its ten causes of action – and the summary judgment state of the record with respect to each?

Please promptly advise, consistent with The Wall Street Journal's webpage about standards of conduct for its newsroom: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/about-the-newsroom-1539110913?mod=wsjfooter>, with the included memo from Wall Street Journal Editor-in-Chief Matt Murray, stating:

"Scoops, sourcing and unique, ambitious stories. In every area of coverage, we must drive the agenda and expect nothing less than that we break every significant story first. Our journalism must be fair, insightful, deeply reported and relevant, guided by the most rigorous standards in journalism. Our writing must be both compelling and concise, whether for a daily news story or a revelatory investigation.

And our metabolism when it comes to reporting, editing, publishing and promoting our work needs to be, frankly, faster.”

I look forward to hearing from you about my August 21<sup>st</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup> e-mails – and ask that you call or e-mail me by tomorrow noon. Otherwise, please furnish me with the e-mail addresses and phone numbers of your immediate editors – and of Mr. Murray – so that I can reach out to them – and to the independent editorial board, particularly with regard to the *CJA v. Cuomo* lawsuit challenge to the New York State budget.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 4, 2019 10:20 AM  
**To:** 'jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com' <[jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com](mailto:jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com)>; 'kclukey@bloomberglaw.com' <[kclukey@bloomberglaw.com](mailto:kclukey@bloomberglaw.com)>

**Subject: ALERT: NYS Public Campaign Financing & Election Commission is INACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**

**ALERT: NYS Public Campaign Financing & Election Commission is INACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**

How is the public supposed to contact the NYS Public Campaign Financing & Election Commission? Where is its website? What is its phone number, e-mail address, office address? Is there NO registration for its public hearings? – the first of which is less than a week away, and virtually unreported by the press.

Are witnesses going to be testifying on a “first-come, first-serve” basis – and how much time will each get? Will the public hearings be live-streamed, pursuant to the Open Meetings Law, and from what website will they be accessible? Will recordings be available – and will submitted written statements be posted?

To enable you to SOUND AN ALARM about the obvious rigging of the Commission’s public hearings to favor advocates of public campaign financing, whose inside track was highlighted by the New York Post’s editorial “Why judges will end up writing New York’s new campaign laws” (Sept. 2, 2019/Sept. 3), attached is the Center for Judicial Accountability’s FOIL/open meetings law request, sent early yesterday morning to the Governor, Senate, and Assembly, to obtain pertinent information about the Commission’s operations.

Meantime – as I have received no response from you to my below August 21<sup>st</sup> e-mail entitled “Is NY’s new Public Campaign Financing & Election Commission constitutional?”, I am resending it to you, now

attaching the New York Law Journal's August 21<sup>st</sup> print publication of my letter "*A Call for Scholarship, Civic Engagement & Amicus Curiae Before the NYCOA*".

As always, I am available to assist you, to the max, in fulfilling your duty to inform and empower the public.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2019 10:54 AM  
**To:** 'jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com' <[jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com](mailto:jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com)>; 'kclukey@bloomberglaw.com' <[kclukey@bloomberglaw.com](mailto:kclukey@bloomberglaw.com)>

**Subject: Is NY's new Public Campaign Financing & Election Commission constitutional?**

**Is New York's new Public Campaign Financing & Election Commission constitutional?**

Or doesn't it matter? How about getting expert opinion from New York's 13 law schools, multitudinous bar associations, universities, colleges, think-tanks, and institutes?

To help get the ball rolling, here's the link to CJA's letter to the editor that the New York Law Journal published yesterday afternoon on its website, <https://www.law.com/newyorklawjournal/2019/08/20/a-call-for-scholarship-civic-engagement-amicus-curiae-before-the-nycoa/>, responding to a perspective column entitled "*It's Legally Perilous to Have a Commission Responsible for Election Laws*".

By the way, CJA's website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), not only posts the [full record of CJA v. Cuomo](#), but it aggregates records of the six other lawsuits, currently unfolding in state and federal courts, challenging the constitutionality of the delegation of legislative powers to commissions/committees. These six lawsuits are listed at pages 2-3 of CJA's August 9, 2019 letter to the Court of Appeals, as part of a "NOTICE" to Attorney General Letitia James of her duty to provide the Court with an "appropriate status report" about them. Additionally, [CJA's webpage for the August 9<sup>th</sup> letter](#) posts links to webpages created for each of the six lawsuits, with their records.

Suffice to note that among the six, [Delgado v. New York State](#), has now joined [CJA v. Cuomo at the Court of Appeals](#) – a notice of DIRECT appeal to the Court of Appeals having been filed by its plaintiffs on August 9<sup>th</sup>, solely on the issue of constitutionality.

I am available to assist you – and to be interviewed.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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