

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [elena@judgewidth.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2008 1:25 AM
To: 'slate.pressbox@gmail.com'; 'Jack.Shafer@slate.com'
Cc: 'Dahlia Lithwick'; 'todayspaper@slate.com'; 'slatepolitics@gmail.com'; 'kim.strassel@wsj.com'; 'mail@intellectualactivist.com'; 'letters@realclearpolitics.com'; 'john@realclearpolitics.com'; 'tom@realclearpolitics.com'
Subject: In defense of Kimberly Strassel: WHY ARE YOU ASKING "Did the Press Service Spitzer?" --

and soliciting readers for "egregious examples of Spitzer bias"?

DON'T YOU ALREADY HAVE THE ANSWER & OVERWHELMING DOCUMENTARY PROOF?

On February 8, 2007, you were a panelist at Columbia Graduate School of Journalism's symposium "Media Reform: Is it Good for Journalism?" and interrupted my description of the Center for Judicial Accountability's landmark public interest lawsuit against The New York Times for "journalistic fraud" to ask to see it. In response, I left my seat and went to the dais to hand you three press releases about the lawsuit, which I had previously e-mailed you. These described the "journalistic fraud" cause of action as based on The Times' pattern and practice of protectionism of Eliot Spitzer and other public officers, such as Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, for whom it was election-rigging. Dean Nicholas Lemann, who was moderating, then told the audience, "Okay, so Jack will look into it and write a column about it." You joked, "I'm served, I'm served" and asked whether there were a "couple of lawyers here who can defend me?" The Journalism School's video is accessible from its website at: <http://www.journalism.columbia.edu/cs/ContentServer/jrn/1175372754554/page/1175295260422/simple> My transcription of this public exchange is posted on CJA's website, www.judgewidth.org, accessible via the sidebar panel, "Press Suppression". This leads to a webpage containing "Paper Trails" of CJA's interactions with the press, including Slate. For your convenience, here is the direct link for Slate: <http://www.judgewidth.org/web-pages/press-suppression/press-slate.htm>.

It has been more than a year since the symposium and I am unaware of any column by you about the lawsuit. Why is that? Did you not read the press releases and venture onto CJA's website, where the sidebar panel, "Suing The New York Times", posts the full lawsuit record, together with the underlying "Paper Trail" of our correspondence with The Times, pleading for its investigation and coverage of the official misconduct of Mr. Spitzer as attorney general and the hoax of his public integrity unit, beginning in 1999 – the first year he was in office.

The focus of your March 13th column "*Did the Press Service Spitzer?*" is Kimberly Strassel's March 12th op-ed column in The Wall Street Journal, "*Spitzer's Media Enablers*". You criticize and mock it as "low on facts" and unsubstantiated by the examples it cites. You state that Ms. Strassel has yet to "make the case".

HOW ABOUT CJA & ITS CASE? What is your opinion of our fact-specific, document-supported verified complaint against The Times? And how about the additional "Paper Trails" of our correspondence with other newspapers and chains, posted on our "Press Suppression" webpage, chronicling how they, too, protected Mr. Spitzer and election-rigged for him. These "Paper Trails" are best accessed from that webpage's "Special Topic: Skewing & Subverting the Electoral Process – Press Protectionism of NY Attorney General Eliot Spitzer [from 1999 onward]". It is <http://www.judgewidth.org/web-pages/press-suppression/press-topic-spitzer.htm> -- and has been on our website for years.

From these, you will be able to readily corroborate the truth of Ms. Strassel's view that the press was

Mr. Spitzer's "accomplices", "adoring", "compliant", and functioning as "an adjunct of Spitzer power, rather than a skeptic of it". Indeed, you will be compelled to conclude that she correctly states that it is the press' "own role as his enabler" that is "the biggest lesson of all".

The succession of major political scandals resulting from this "biggest lesson" will have a far greater potential for reform – both in New York State and nationally -- than any Mr. Spitzer might have made. What more do you need from us to do your duty as a journalist to report that lesson?

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
914-421-1200
www.judgewatch.org