

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 4:55 PM
To: 'ic_complaints@fbi.gov'
Subject: Sept. 3, 2021 complaint vs the FBI, filed with the Inspector General -- & request for info & for records, pursuant to FOIA
Attachments: 9-3-21-complaint-doj-inspector-general.pdf

TO: FBI Acting Deputy Designated Agency Ethics Official Catherine Bruno

This follow up my voice messages for you (202-324-9482) at 9:23 am and 1:53 pm today, upon discovering, from [Section 1-4.000 of the Justice Manual \("Standards of Conduct"\)](#), that each "component" of the Justice Department has a "designated agency ethics official" – and that you serve in that capacity for the FBI: <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/ethics-officials>. At 2:35 pm, your assistant Marilyn returned my call, furnishing me with your e-mail address so that I could provide you with my September 3, 2021 complaint against the FBI, filed with Justice Department Inspector General Horowitz.

The complaint, with live links to the referred-to substantiating EVIDENCE, is above-attached. Further EVIDENCE is accessible from the webpage I created for the complaint: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-federal/complaint-sept-3-2021-doj-inspector-general.htm>, to which I alerted the Inspector General on September 4, 2021.

At issue is what the FBI did upon receipt of the FULLY-DOCUMENTED public corruption complaint I filed with it, electronically, on October 16, 2020 against "NYS Governor Cuomo, Lt. Governor Hochel, Attorney General James, Comptroller DiNapoli, NYS Senators and Assembly Members, NYS Court of Appeals & other Albany judges -- & NYS' 62 county D.A.s, beginning with Albany County D.A. Soares" for "Fraud and larceny...involving their OWN pay raises... & the NYS budget"

As I briefly discussed with Marilyn, the FBI should have referred the October 16, 2020 complaint to "main Justice" and, specifically, to the Public Integrity Section of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, consistent with the Justice Department's annual reports to Congress on the activities and operations of the Public Integrity Section, which state:

"Public corruption cases tend to raise unique problems of public perception that are generally absent in more routine criminal cases. An investigation of alleged corruption by a government official, whether at the federal state, or local level, or someone associated with such an official, always has the potential of becoming a high-profile case simply because its focus is on the conduct of a public official. In addition, these cases are often politically sensitive because their ultimate targets tend to be politicians or government officials appointed by politicians.

A successful public corruption prosecution requires both the appearance and the reality of fairness and impartiality. This means that a successful corruption case involves not just a conviction but public perception that the conviction was warranted, not the result of improper motivation by the prosecutor, and is free of conflicts of interest. In a case in which the local conflict of interest is substantial, the local office is removed from the case by a procedure called recusal. Recusal occurs when the local office either asks to step aside, or is asked to step aside by Department headquarters, as primary prosecutor. Federal cases involving corruption in which the conflict is substantial are usually referred to the Public Integrity Section either for prosecution or direct operational supervision." ([latest annual report, for 2019, at pp. 1-2](#))

Surely there are written rules, protocols, and procedures instructing the FBI about how to handle public corruption complaints, such as mine – perhaps requiring, preliminarily, consultation with the “designated agency ethics official” as to the appropriate course. Were they followed? And were you consulted, including by any of NY’s four acting U.S. Attorneys to whom I turned for oversight as to the status of the FBI’s investigation of my October 16, 2020 public corruption complaint – first by [my November 4, 2020 complaint to Acting U.S. Attorney Antoinette Bacon \(NDNY\)](#) and then by [my December 19, 2020 complaint to NY’s other three acting U.S. Attorneys \(SDNY\), \(EDNY\), \(WDNY\)](#)?

Please advise, furnishing the answers, as well, to Inspector General Horowitz.

Meantime – and pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act – I request the FBI’s written rules, protocols and procedures for handling public corruption complaints of the type described by the Justice Department’s annual reports to Congress on the activities and operations of the Public Integrity Section – and any records, available to me, as to the FBI’s handling of my October 16, 2020 public corruption complaint.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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