

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 1:52 PM
To: 'sheryljthomas@gmail.com'
Cc: 'cpaladino@ellicottdevelopment.com'; 'albel1@aol.com'; 'jblake@blakeforupstate.com'; 'martin@americanmajorityaction.org'
Subject: NYS' 2012 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: ALL IT TAKES IS A SCANDAL & CORRUPTION ISSUES
Attachments: 6-18-12-to-paladino.pdf; 6-22-12-to-paladino.pdf

Dear Sheryl,

Thank you for helping to preserve our democracy by your civic activism – and by your offer to follow-up with Carl so as to secure independent review of CJA's lawsuit against New York's highest constitutional officers and three government branches so as to verify whether, as I have said, it is A SCANDAL that can knock out legislative incumbents in this election year – and none more so than Senate Majority Leader Skelos and Assembly Speaker Silver – not only ending their political careers, but rightfully resulting in their being criminally prosecuted for fraud, corruption, and larceny of millions, and ultimately billions, of taxpayer dollars. It is a WINNING issue.

That is why, six weeks ago, I first contacted Carl and as many of the insurgent candidates as he had endorsed whose contact information I could find, mostly through your webpage about his "NY Free Republican Caucus Initiative". This is reflected by my two e-mail messages to Carl, the first on June 19th and the second on June 22nd, following my phone conversation with him. They are attached, for your convenience.

These June 19th and June 22nd e-mails, along with my other e-mails to candidates who are part of Carl's "NY Free Republican Caucus Initiative", are posted on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible *via* the top panel "Latest News", which links to a webpage entitled *ELECTIONS 2012: Making NY's Legislative Elections Competitive - Outreach to Reformers, Insurgent Candidates & Political Parties*. Your webpage about Carl's "NY Free Republican Caucus Initiative" is posted next to Carl's name.

It is also why, on July 22nd, I went to the American Majority candidate training session you organized in Chester, where I spoke about the lawsuit in the introductory round-robin segment of the session, stating – in response to Al Belardinelli's remark that Carl was resigned to Skelos' re-election to the Senate, but would be working to knock him from his leadership post – that Skelos could be defeated in his re-election bid because "IT ONLY TAKES A SCANDAL". Before the training session was over, I discussed the lawsuit with Al, at length – and gave him a copy of its complaint and substantiating exhibits for transmittal to Carl for review by his legal/political team so that its election-changing significance could be assessed.

I also was pleased to meet – and discuss the significance of the lawsuit – with 51st senatorial district insurgent candidate Jim Blake, who I had previously e-mailed. He agreed that he and other insurgent candidates who are part of Carl's "NY Free Republican Caucus Initiative" would greatly benefit from an independent review of the

lawsuit and that it would make the most sense if that was undertaken by Carl's legal/political team. Once they verify that the lawsuit is a MAJOR SCANDAL – which they can accomplish within a few hours – an effective strategy can be developed against the incumbents they face, all of whom are defendants in the lawsuit.

Elections are about holding incumbent officers to account – and defendant legislative incumbents seeking re-election should be grilled as to what facts detailed by the lawsuit they knew, when they knew them, and what they are going to do about them NOW. Indeed, in addition to ousting a demonstrably corrupt legislative leadership – and with it, Governor Cuomo, Attorney General Schneiderman, Comptroller DiNapoli, and Chief Judge Lippman – the lawsuit can force sweeping reforms, beginning with legislative rules. New York's Legislature is utterly dysfunctional – and there is no reason why insurgents should not be calling upon the legislative incumbents to identify what they have done to change the way the Legislature dysfunctions – the blueprint having been laid out for them, in 2004 and 2008, by reports on the NYS Legislature by the Brennan Center for Justice. These important reports are posted at the bottom of CJA's ELECTIONS 2012 webpage, as is the 1997 article "*Albany's Travesty of Democracy*" by Professor Eric Lane, a catalyst for those reports, and whose final paragraph gives a recipe for defeating legislative incumbents:

"Lasting change will come about in Albany only when reform becomes a standard election issue, like taxes, criminal justice, and the schools. Voters will have to press candidates on their willingness to turn the Legislature into a true representative body. Editorial boards and interest groups will have to stake their endorsements on a commitment to openness and deliberation. Today, legislators' complicity in the Albany system costs them nothing. Tomorrow, it should cost them their jobs."

Likewise posted are illustrative editorials from the New York Times, reflecting its view, in 2009, that corruption should "cost [incumbent legislators] their jobs":

"New Yorkers should be appalled at their failed state government, particularly their corrupt and clueless Legislature. Scandal and irresponsibility have been Albany's creed for decades. This year, the gang added another outrage to the list: complete fiscal incompetence.

The only solace is this: The entire Legislature is up for re-election in 2010. And unless there is a sudden turnaround -- and, so far, we see few signs of it -- **New Yorkers have no choice but to vote out all the lawmakers and start over."**

All that Carl has said about "Turning Albany Upside" can be achieved through scandal and focus on corruption issues. The lawsuit is powerful ammunition on both counts.

Thank you, again.

Elena (Sassower), Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
646-220-7987

cc: Carl Paladino

Al Belardinelli
Jim Blake
Martin Gillespie/American Majority Action

June 19, 2012 message sent to Carl Paladino *via* the contact page of his website: www.carlpaladino.com/contact/

SUBJECT: NY Free Republican Caucus Initiative: Fielding Successful Primary Challengers to Incumbent Legislators Who Have Betrayed the Public Trust

MESSAGE:

RE: New York Free Republican Caucus Initiative: Fielding Successful Primary Challengers to Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos & Other Incumbent Legislators who have Betrayed the Public Trust

Dear Mr. Paladino,

Thank you for your patriotic candidacy for governor in the 2010 elections -- and for your continued commitment to reforming New York State government for the benefit of all New Yorkers.

New Yorkers need a person of your civic-minded convictions and resources to save us from the flagrant corruption and dysfunction of our state government.

The purpose of this message is to offer you the means to make good on your powerfully-expressed February 29, 2012 memo demanding Senator Dean Skelos' immediate resignation as Senate Majority Leader and asserting that a "Free Republican Caucus Initiative" would "deal with those other treacherous Republican Senators who with [him] sold out their integrity and abrogated their pledges to the taxpayers." To that end, you have been seeking and endorsing candidates to challenge incumbent Republican members of the New York State Senate and Assembly who have betrayed their constituents' trust. However, no challenger to Senator Skelos appears on the list of endorsed candidates of the Free Republican Caucus Initiative that we have located on the internet (<http://sherylthomas.com/new-york-free-republican-caucus-initiative-candidate-list>) and, seemingly, Senator Skelos will not be facing any primary contest.

It is for this reason that we write. Our New York-based nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), is presently suing Senate Majority Leader Skelos in a politically-explosive lawsuit, charging him and his co-defendants, including Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Governor Andrew Cuomo, with colluding against the People of this State to foist upon us fraudulent and unconstitutional judicial pay raises -- at an ultimate cost to New York taxpayers of billions of dollars. This, in addition to leaving New Yorkers defenseless against systemic judicial corruption in the New York courts, encompassing supervisory and appellate levels and the Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Publicity of the lawsuit – and the documentary proof on which it is based – would END Senator Skelos' political career and the political careers of Assembly Speaker Silver, Governor Cuomo, and a panoply of other New York legislators and public officers named and encompassed by the suit. Indeed, publicity and the resulting public outrage would rightfully lead to their being criminally prosecuted for official misconduct and fraud. This would finally and definitively "Turn Albany Upside" – to the lasting benefit of all New Yorkers.

As you are a lawyer, you can readily verify for yourself the serious and substantial nature of CJA's lawsuit, brought on behalf of the People of New York – and its potential to upend the 2012 elections when EVERY member of New York's Legislature is up for re-election. The record of the lawsuit is posted on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible via the top panel "Latest News". Needless to say, to facilitate your review, we would be pleased to furnish you with a hard copy of the record.

We request – and would be honored – to speak with you directly – and would be willing to travel to Buffalo to make a personal presentation. We would also be pleased to meet with the various primary challengers you have endorsed so that we can discuss with them the lawsuit and its potential to win them the elections. We have already written to challenger Jim Blake, who you have endorsed against incumbent Senator James Seward. Below is a copy of our yesterday's e-mail to him, to which you were an indicated recipient.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
646-220-7987
www.judgewatch.org
elena@judgewatch.org

June 18, 2012

Dear Mr. Blake,

I have read Carl Paladino's June 8th endorsement of your candidacy, recommending you as recognizing that "we need our state legislators to be accountable". -- and your own quote about replacing "'business as usual' legislators". Bravo!

Our NY-based nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), can provide you -- and other good-government, reform-minded candidates -- with a WINNING issue against incumbent state legislators, particularly those in leadership positions, such as your opponent, Senator James Seward.

As you know, Senator Seward is Assistant Majority Leader of Conference Operations, appointed by Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos in 2011.

Senate Majority Leader Skelos -- and the State Senate -- are defendants in a politically-explosive lawsuit that CJA has brought, in the public interest, on behalf of the People of the State of New York. The lawsuit is based on their official misconduct and fraud upon the People in allowing unlawful and unconstitutional pay raises for state judges. These pay raises will cost taxpayers a reported \$27.7 million for this year alone -- and will amount to billions over time.

CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, posts a press release about the lawsuit, as well as the lawsuit itself. These are accessible via the top panel "Latest News".

I would look forward to speaking with you -- and Mr. Paladino -- directly about this decisive campaign issue. I invite you to call me, at your convenience.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
646-220-7987

cc: Carl Paladino


From: elena@judgewatch.org <elena@judgewatch.org>

To: cpaladino@ellicottdevelopment.com, contactus@ellicottdevelopment.com

Cc:

Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 05:29 pm

Subject: Your Objective of Ousting Senate Majority Leader Skelos & Developing a "NY Free Republican Caucus Initiative"

Attachments:  6-18-12-to-paladino.pdf (2MB)

Dear Mr. Paladino,

Thank you for taking my call and giving me the opportunity to acquaint you with the MAJOR SCANDAL that can knock out the incumbent leadership of the NYS Legislature, beginning with Senate Majority Leader Skelos and Assembly Speaker Silver.

Their fraud, costing New York taxpayers millions and ultimately billions of dollars in fraudulent judicial pay raises, is particularized by the verified complaint in our public interest lawsuit against them. It is posted on our website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible via the top panel "Latest News".

Attached is the e-mail I sent you earlier this week about how the lawsuit can advance your objective of ousting Senate Majority Leader Skelos and developing a "New York Free Republican Caucus Initiative".

I have thus far contacted the campaigns of Jim Blake, challenging incumbent Senator James Seward, and Neil DiCarlo, challenging incumbent Senator Stephen Saland.

I have not been able to find any contact info or website for John Destino, who is challenging incumbent Senator George Maziarz -- and appreciate your readiness to furnish it to me.

Will keep you posted.

Thank you, again.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
646-220-7987