

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Yusuf Abdul-Qadir <yabdulqadir@nyclu.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:35 AM
To: elena@judgewatch.org; spc@peacecouncil.net
Cc: Lanessa Chaplin; Kevin Atwater; ckeller3@twcny.rr.com; glavine@bhlawpllc.com; cbaker@syracuse.com; citynews@syracuse.com; features@syracuse.com; timkennedy@syracuse.com; mmorelli@syracuse.com; ddowty@syracuse.com; 'Chris Alan Bolt'; 'Scott R Willis'; 'John S Smith'; Ashley@Stand.com; 'Gregory James Munno'; gdreeher@maxwell.syr.edu; 'Jonathan Neal Glass'
Subject: Re: The rigged Oct 10th Onondaga D.A. Candidates Forum -- depriving voters of what they most need to know about D.A. Fitzpatrick & would-be D.A.s Keller & Levine

Good morning,

Thank you for your e-mails and calls to my office, our NY office, to our advisory board and legal committees - which serve as advisory and have neither fiduciary or programmatic or other oversight roles - the press and others. I appreciate your zealotry, but find your emails inconsistent with what we at the NYCLU are able to do and engage in. Firstly, you sent your email the morning of the forum. To expect that, on the day of, after months of planning, that we'd adjust without having had the ability to vet this before presenting it, is not in line with what is reasonable. Secondly, we had an all staff meeting from 10 am until 5 pm on October 10th. I did not see email, nor would I have been in a position to respond as the forum began at 6 that evening. Thirdly and most importantly, this targeting of one candidate violates our understanding of the limitations of our C3 and C4 work. We do not cross those lines and in fact, the NYCLU's role is to educate people about the power of the office and not to engage in what would give the appearance of partisanship.

I must say though, that I find and take serious issue with how you've chosen to engage. If you feel as passionately as you clearly do, write a letter to the editor, hold a press conference, engage the public, show up to the debate and ask those questions, share this information in a myriad of other forums available to you and the organization that you represent. To demand for us to be that proxy is inappropriate and out of line. To send the number of emails, make the number of calls and to try to pressure us in the ways you have, is out of line. I am not easily pressured, nor do I believe your line of engagement appropriate. The merits of your issues aside, you do a serious disservice to what may very well be important information, by how you chose to pressure us at the NYCLU. You should show up and canvas and share those concerns, hold press conferences, write to the press or do a number of other activities.

So, with that said, we are not going to be sharing this information, not because we do or don't believe in its merits, but because it is not the role that we should be playing in this regard. I wish you luck in your passionate advocacy and hope you much success.

Best,

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