

Center for Judicial Accountability

From: Jay Jochnowitz <jjochnowitz@timesunion.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Center for Judicial Accountability
Subject: Re: Clarifying &/or Retracting Your Albany Times Union Editorial -- "An unfair pay impasse", 4/29/13

Thanks for your comments. I'll go over all this and see if the reader rep has more to tell me based on her conversation with you. If I have any questions, I'll get back to you.

From: Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewatch.org>
Date: Tue, 30 Apr 2013 12:38:48 -0400
To: <jjochnowitz@timesunion.com>
Cc: <cseiler@timesunion.com>, <rkarlin@timesunion.com>, <jodato@timesunion.com>, <jvielkind@timesunion.com>, <rsmith@timesunion.com>, Morgan Pehme <mpehme@cityandstateny.com>, Jon Lentz <jlentz@cityandstateny.com>, <ashort@cityandstateny.com>, <ttyler@timesunion.com>
Subject: Clarifying &/or Retracting Your Albany Times Union Editorial -- "An unfair pay impasse", 4/29/13

Clarifying &/or Retracting Your Albany Times Union Editorial -- "An unfair pay impasse", 4/29/13

TO: Albany Times Union Editorial Page Editor Jay Jochnowitz

Following up our brief phone conversation at 10 am this morning, kindly call me at any time convenient for you later today so that we can discuss the factual basis for your yesterday's editorial "*An unfair pay impasse*" --whose deficiencies I briefly discussed yesterday morning with your colleague, Tena Tyler, who, in addition to being on the editorial board, also serves as "reader representative". This, after Ms. Tyler told me that you would not be in. This was when I called to speak with you at about 11:30 a.m., which was roughly 3 hours after I had sent you an e-mail requesting a call about "Serious problems with & clarification necessary for 'An unfair pay impasse'".

Most importantly, what is the factual basis for the premise of your editorial that the Legislature has hostages the issue of salary raises for managerial and confidential state employees to salary raises of its own? Such is certainly not reflected by the "sponsor's memos" for A246 and S2953 establishing a special commission on compensation for managerial and confidential employees.

Indeed, beginning on April 20th, I sent your FOUR legislative reporters -- Rick Carlin, Casey Seiler, James Odato, and Jimmy Vielkind -- a succession of e-mails attaching an analysis of A246 and S2953 -- including of the "sponsor's memos" -- contained in memoranda addressed to all the members of the Assembly Committee on Governmental Employees (April 20); all the members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee (April 26); and all Senators (April 26). Were each of these four reporters unaware that you would be writing an editorial on the subject -- and did they not believe that the information contained therein should inform your editorial?

Please be further advised that, consistent with the past practices of Albany Times-Union reporters of ignoring CJA's fact-based, evidence supported presentations, none of these four reporters saw fit to call me about the memoranda -- including Rick Carlin who had written an April 16th article "*Raising the salary bar for some state workers*" and who, when I phoned him about it on April 17th, told me he couldn't speak with me and that I should send him "something in writing".

CJA's April 20th and April 26th memoranda -- with their request for clarification and committee hearings on the "sponsor's memos" -- are posted on the "Latest News" page of our website, www.judgewatch.org <<http://www.judgewatch.org>> . Here's the direct link, for your convenience: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/cja/latest-news.htm> .

Surely it was no coincidence that your editorial appeared on the very day that S.2953 was on the 3rd reading Senate floor calendar -- ready for a vote --with A.246 poised to be on the agenda of the Assembly Ways and Means