

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 10:49 AM
To: 'adenney@alm.com'
Cc: 'blee@alm.com'

Subject: **Federal Lawsuit Suing the NYLJ for Corruption-Abetting, Election-Rigging, Journalistic Fraud**

Attachments: cja-complaint-oct-8-2025-corrected.pdf

TO: NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL
Bureau Chief Andrew Denney

Has your Albany reporter, Brian Lee, shared with you the mountain of e-mails I have sent him since [my first e-mail to him, on June 10, 2022](#) entitled "Lawsuit vs JCOPE -- & to VOID the statute shutting it down & replacing it with a 'commission on ethics and lobbying in government'..." to which – being new to the beat – he responded by doing the unthinkable: he called me for further information and then whipped out a [June 10th article for the NYLJ website](#) "*Citizen's Group Seeks To Void Repeal and Replacement of NY Ethics Watchdog*", that, on [June 13th, would be printed on the NYLJ's front page](#).

Are you aware that from that point forward Mr. Lee gave ZERO coverage to the lawsuit and ZERO coverage of anything reflective of [my subsequent e-mails](#), including those requesting that he forward them to supervisory and managerial levels, and that he wrote article after article that he knew to be materially false by reason thereof.

Below is my most recent-email to him, on October 8th, alerting him that I had commenced a federal lawsuit against the [NYLJ](#) and other press for their corruption-abetting, election-rigging, journalistic fraud. The verified complaint is above-attached and [here-linked](#).

Pursuant to [Rule 4\(d\) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#), the [NYLJ](#) has "a duty to avoid unnecessary expenses of serving the summons" and I, as plaintiff, may request that you "waive service of [the] summons", which I am required to do by mail, enclosing a copy of the complaint, two copies of the waiver form and a stamped return envelope.

As a benefit of your timely return of the waiver, you get 60 days from the date of my mailed request within which to answer the complaint, rather than 21 days from the date of physical/personal service – and your waiving service of the summons does not waive any objection to personal jurisdiction or to venue. If, "without good cause", you fail to sign and return the waiver, "the court must impose" upon you "the expenses later incurred in making service" and "the reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, of any motion required to collect expenses". "'Good cause' does not include a belief that the lawsuit is groundless, or that it has been brought in an improper venue, or that the court has no jurisdiction over this matter or over [you]".

It appears that the NYLJ and its parent, ALM, have the same address – [150 East 42nd Street, New York, New York 10017](#). Is that correct? And do they have the same counsel? Please advise and furnish me with the name of such counsel and his/her contact information, so that my mailed written request for waiver of service of the summons can be addressed to his/her attention.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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Subject: Federal Lawsuit Suing You for Corruption-Abetting, Election-Rigging "Journalistic Fraud"

TO: LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION

ATT: Keshia Clukey, President
David Lombardo, Vice President
Shantel Destra, Secretary
Jon Campbell, Co-Treasurer
Bill Mahoney, Co-Treasurer
Bernadette Phillips, Press Room Manager

As I received no response from you to my below September 28th e-mail, with its attached [testimony/complaint to COELIG](#) – replicating your non-responses to my [years of e-mails to you](#) – I have today filed the above-attached and [here-linked](#) federal complaint, suing LCA, a fair number of your members, and other NY press for corruption-abetting, election-rigging “journalistic fraud”. Congratulations to LCA for being the 1st defendant in the lawsuit, whose shortened caption will be *CJA, et al. v. LCA, et al!*

Pursuant to [Rule 4\(d\) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#), the LCA has “a duty to avoid unnecessary expenses of serving the summons” and I, as plaintiff, may request that you “waive service of [the] summons”, which I am required to do by mail, enclosing a copy of the complaint, two copies of the waiver form and a stamped return envelope.

As a benefit of your timely return of the waiver, you get 60 days from the date of my mailed request within which to answer the complaint, rather than 21 days from the date of physical/personal service – and your waiving service of the summons does not waive any objection to personal jurisdiction or to venue. If, “without good cause”, you fail to sign and return the waiver, “the court must impose” upon you “the expenses later incurred in making service” and “the reasonable expenses, including attorney’s fees, of any motion required to collect expenses”. “‘Good cause’ does not include a belief that the lawsuit is groundless, or that it has been brought in an improper venue, or that the court has no jurisdiction over this matter or over [you]”.

I assume that LCA’s mailing address is State Capitol, PO 7269, Albany NY 12224, which is what comes up when I do a search on the [database of the Department of State](#).

Kindly confirm and also furnish me with the name of LCA’s legal counsel and his/her contact information. I note that I will have to amend paragraph 8(a) to reflect the officers which I had inadvertently missed – a vice president and additional co-treasurer.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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Subject: FOR REPORTING: CJA's Testimony/Complaint at COELIG's Sept 25th Hearing vs COELIG &, of Immediate & Election-Decisive Priority, vs NYS Assemblyman Mamdani & NYS Senator Hoylman-Sigal

TO: ALBANY LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION ROSTER (LCA)

It appears that the ONLY press reporting of [the live-streamed and videoed September 25th third annual hearing of the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government \(COELIG\)](#) are [Spectrum News'](#) September 25th "[Good government groups: N.Y. lobbyists must be mandated to report campaign contributions](#)" by LCA member Kate Lisa, whose falsity includes portraying COELIG as a properly functioning entity, and, of the same ilk, the [Albany Times Union's](#) September 25th afternoon [Capitol Confidential](#) "[How New York's public ethics rules could change in 2026](#)" by LCA member Dan Clark. This, in face of my testimony at the morning hearing, as its first witness, particularizing COELIG's corruption in handling complaints, which disappear, without disposition and without listing in its annual reports.

To assist you in reporting on COELIG's readily-verifiable corruption with respect to complaints and its annual reports -- of which I furnished you EVIDENCE previously, as, for instance, by my [January 4th e-mail](#), with its link to [CJA's December 16, 2024 motion and amicus curiae brief](#) at the Court of Appeals *in Cuomo v. COELIG* -- above-attached is the written testimony I submitted for the September 25th hearing, expressly as a complaint against COELIG and, of immediate and election-decisive priority, against NYS Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani and NYS Senator Brad Hoylman Sigal.

As stated at page 6 of my testimony on which the complaint is based – and as I materially stated at the hearing:

“Under the exigent circumstances presented by the upcoming elections, for which early voting starts in less than a month, IMMEDIATE 15-day notices to Mamdani and Hoylman-Sigal must issue for their responses to the ‘specific and credible evidence’ of my March e-mails – with notification to the district attorneys having criminal jurisdiction over them, Queens D.A. Melinda Katz, Manhattan D.A. Alvin Bragg, and Albany D.A. Lee Kindlon, to IMMEDIATELY summon me to appear before grand juries to give testimony under oath in support of felony indictments against them, forthwith – because, in fact, the evidence against them is not just ‘specific and credible’, but open-and-shut and *prima facie*, guaranteeing that each will be convicted of the multitude of penal law violations, of which they had notice, repeatedly, for years. This is my sole and EMERGENCY recommendation.” (capitalization and underlining in the original).

By the way, when were you planning to report on the *open-and-shut, prima facie* EVIDENCE of Mamdani's corruption, as a NYS assemblyman, and of Hoylman-Sigal's corruption, as a NYS senator, which I furnished you by my [March 18th e-mail](#) – and two additional times, thereafter, by my [April 7th](#) and [April 18th e-mails](#)?

I am available to assist you in belatedly discharging your First Amendment responsibilities and journalistic duties of truthful, honest reporting. Feel free to call, *no matter how early or late*, as TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Thank you.

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