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BY MAIL

August 9, 2006

Professor Thomas E. Patterson
Bradlee Professor of Government and the Press
Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics & Public Policy
John F. Kennedy School of Government/Harvard University
79 JFK Street, 2nd Floor-Taubman
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

RE: Meeting Academic Responsibilities by Scholarship Based on *Primary Source*
Documentary Evidence & Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Dear Professor Patterson:

I am at a loss to understand your July 26th e-mail response to my July 19th e-mail, which I ask you to clarify.

Your promise to me, when we spoke by phone on July 19th, was that you would read the verified complaint in CJA's public interest lawsuit against The New York Times. Did you read it? And was it the hard copy that I had mailed to Alex Jones back in April, which I specifically requested you to read so that you could most conveniently avail yourself of its important substantiating exhibits.

You say that you have "no interest" in what you euphemistically call "the subject". How can that be when your own faculty profile on the Kennedy School of Government's website reflects that your scholarship has focused on democracy, the media's political role, and the "vanishing voter"? Do you deny that these are the very issues presented by the verified complaint's libel and journalistic fraud causes of action in vindication of the public's First Amendment rights?

As for your "wish[ing me] success in finding a researcher who might be willing to follow up on [these] materials", is it your contention that the verified complaint and CJA's 15-year correspondence with The Times on which it is based, posted on CJA's website -- as likewise CJA's comparable posted correspondence with media other than The Times -- are not squarely within the Shorenstein Center's mission, such that you recognize NO professional responsibility as a member of its faculty (and its acting director prior to Alex Jones' appointment) to bring these *primary source* materials within the scholarship of the Shorenstein Center and Kennedy School of Government? This includes NO responsibility to make these unprecedented materials known to your students from whom -- according

to the posted course descriptions for your seminars on "Press, Politics, and Public Policy" and "Politics and Advocacy" – you require "an individual, original, and in-depth Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE) or research paper".

Although I was unable to locate the syllabus for your "Press, Politics, and Public Policy" seminar, the syllabus for your "Politics and Advocacy" seminar states:

"...The course operates like a small consulting group in which each student has her or his own client and consults with that client as well as other members of the seminar on their projects...Students...typically have a topic in the area of politics, advocacy, leadership, and /or communication. Often, PAEs in this area have dealt with strategies for advancing policy goals; with building strategic capacities (e.g., communication) within organizations; with devising advocacy campaigns; or with leadership issues...

...The instructor will work with students individually and collectively in developing topics and appropriate research methodologies."

As you know, the "policy goals" of our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization are to reform documentably corrupted processes of judicial selection and discipline so that they are effective and meaningful. Why would you not suggest CJA as a "prospective client" to your students – where doing so would allow them to grapple with 15 years worth of in-the-trenches empirical reality involving the three governmental branches, the two major political parties, lesser and third parties, a plethora of media over and beyond The Times, a gamut of organizations, professional associations, academia and so-called leaders – all of which rebut, resoundingly, huge swaths of theory about "strategies", "strategic capacities", "advocacy campaigns" and "leadership issues".

Surely, too, you are well acquainted, professionally and personally, with many academics who would be interested in the "subject" you purport is "outside [your] research interests and incompatible with [your] research commitments over the next several years." Why then have you not offered us even a single referral to increase our "success in finding a researcher"? – where, additionally, the exigency of the situation is evident from CJA's website materials.

The 2006 elections are getting closer and closer – and with it the landslide electoral victories of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and Attorney General Eliot Spitzer to New York's top public offices, engineered by The Times and other media by their deliberate suppression of ALL coverage of the scandalous records of these two public officers with respect to judicial selection and discipline. Is it still your view that a free press "covers what it wants to cover", without ANY First Amendment obligation to report on such records whose election-altering significance – indeed, criminal ramifications – is clear from the *primary source* documentary evidence CJA has provided and proffered it?

I would note that back in February, when you returned my voice mail message for the Shorenstein Center's "Vanishing Voter Project", you stated that the Project had run out of funding and was essentially moribund. Yet, NO money is needed for you and other professors to encourage students

who require research and dissertation topics for their graduate and undergraduate degrees to examine the press' role in contributing to the "vanishing voter". And it is SO easy to do. Over and beyond CJA's extraordinary *primary source* documents on the subject, one has only to study the substantive content of the electoral and political reporting of The Times and other media to see what is happening. Indeed, during our conversation in February, I believe I drew your attention to my own pertinent observation concerning Times coverage of Senator Clinton and Attorney General Spitzer, set forth at footnote 7 of my July 29, 2005 letter to Bill Keller:

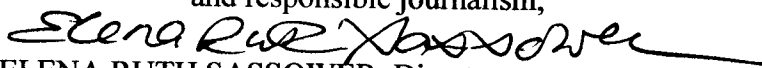
"Analysis of Times coverage would show it is heavily weighted to reporting on speculation, on the political power brokers who support the incumbents or who are commenting on their prospects, on the incumbents' fund raising; on their politically-expedient posturings and positions – for which, by virtue of their public office, they get added free-publicity – and on polls. The polls would tumble, as likewise the fundraising, if the public were informed of the records of these public officers with respect to judicial selection and discipline."¹ (at p. 7).

In any event, if you read the verified complaint in CJA's lawsuit against The Times, you know that this very excerpt from footnote 7 is quoted at ¶110 – and that my July 29, 2005 letter, outlining the First Amendment issues that what would metastasize into the lawsuit, is Exhibit Q.

As I have yet to hear from Director/Professor Jones and Professor Schauer – each indicated recipients of my July 19th e-mail to you – I am sending them a copy of this letter as a reminder that I have been patiently awaiting their response on the subject of "Building Scholarship".

Basic standards of professional and ethical responsibility compel your response – and theirs – to the serious issues herein presented – including requisite disclosure as to the multitude of conflicts of interest which you and they face in addressing the proposed scholarship and its "substantive" and "legal" merit.

Yours for a quality judiciary, meaningful elections,
and responsible journalism,


ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

Enclosure: Your faculty profile

cc: Director/Professor Alex Jones
Professor Frederick Schauer
Floyd Abrams, Esq.

¹ This quoted excerpt appears now – as it did then – on CJA's webpage "Press Protectionism of Senators Schumer & Clinton", accessible via the sidebar panels "Elections 2006: Informing the Voters" and "Press Suppression". While we were on the phone together in February, you had gotten on the website and I directed you to these pertinent sidebar panels and webpages.



KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT FACULTY

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HIGHLIGHT

Virtual Book Tour on *The Vanishing Voter: Public Involvement in an Age of Uncertainty*

PROFILE

Thomas E. Patterson is Bradlee Professor of Government and the Press. His most recent book, *The Vanishing Voter*, looks at the causes and consequences of declining electoral participation. His book on the media's political role, *Out of Order*, received the American Political Science Association's Graber Award as the best book of the decade in political communication. An earlier book, *The Unseeing Eye*, was named by the American Association for Public Opinion Research as one of the 50 most influential books on public opinion in the past half century. He also is author of *Mass Media Election* and two general American government texts: *The American Democracy* and *We the People*. His articles have appeared in *Political Communication*, *Journal of Communication*, and other academic journals, as well as in the popular press. His research has been funded by the Ford, Markle, Smith-Richardson, Pew, and National Science foundations. Patterson received his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1971.

COURSES**Year Long**

- PAL-150Y Seminar: Politics and Advocacy
 PPP-150Y Seminar: Press, Politics, and Public Policy

Fall

- PAL-110M1 Mobilizing for Political Action: American Politics & Comparative Politics
 PAL-110M2 Mobilizing for Political Action: American Politics & Comparative Politics

MEDIA EXPERTISE

Thomas Patterson welcomes media inquiries on the following subjects. Additional experts may be found by clicking on each subject listed. You may contact faculty directly or if you need assistance contact the Communications Office at 617-495-1115.

Civic Engagement
 Communications
 Democracy
 Elections
 Media
 Political Campaigns

Press

Public Opinion/Polling

US Government/Politics

Voting

RESEARCH



Research
REPORT

For a complete list of faculty citations from 2001 - Present, please visit the KSG Research Report Online.

Selected Publication Citations

Books

Patterson, Thomas E. *We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics*, 6th Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Patterson, Thomas E. *The American Democracy*, 7th Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Patterson, Thomas E. *The American Democracy*, 6th Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2003.

Patterson, Thomas E. *We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics*, 5th Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2003.

Patterson, Thomas E. *The Vanishing Voter: Public Involvement in an Age of Uncertainty*, Paperback Edition. Vintage, 2003.

Patterson, Thomas E. *The Vanishing Voter: Public Involvement in an Age of Uncertainty*, Hardcover Edition. Knopf, 2002.

Patterson, Thomas E. *The American Democracy*, 5th Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2001.

Patterson, Thomas E. *We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics*, 4th Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2001.

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