

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:07 AM
To: 'foil@nysenate.gov'
Cc: 'Alessandra Biaggi'; 'Karen Reppy'; 'Jordine Jones'
Subject: AGAIN, FOIL -- Written statements of witnesses, would-be witnesses, & others, submitted for the Aug. 25, 2021 hearing on "New York State's System of Ethics Oversight and Enforcement" & related records
Attachments: 8-31-21-auto-email-jones.pdf; 8-31-21-auto-email-biernacki.pdf

TO: Senate Records Access Officer/Secretary of the Senate Alejandra Paulino, ESQ.
Senate Committee on Ethics & Internal Governance Chair Alessandra Biaggi, ESQ.

I have received no response to my below August 31, 2021 FOIL request, other than an August 31st automated e-mail from Jordine Jones that she would be out of the office through September 10th and a blank August 31st e-mail from a Jason Biernacki. Both are above-attached.

Please advise when your substantive responses to my FOIL request will be forthcoming – and, additionally, explain why

“[n]otwithstanding the trumpeting of the importance of transparency by Senate Ethics and Internal Governance Committee Chair Alessandra Biaggi at the Committee’s August 25, 2021 hearing on ‘New York State’s System of Ethics Oversight and Enforcement’, the [webpage for the August 25th hearing](#) – like the [webpage for the postponed July 12th hearing](#) – [STILL] does NOT post the submitted written statements of the witnesses who were ‘invited’ to testify before the Committee, let alone the written statements submitted by others, most importantly, those NOT ‘invited’ to testify.”

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:14 AM
To: 'foil@nysenate.gov' <foil@nysenate.gov>
Cc: 'Alessandra Biaggi' <biaggi@nysenate.gov>; 'Karen Reppy' <reppy@nysenate.gov>; 'Jordine Jones' <jonesjj@nysenate.gov>

Subject: FOIL -- Written statements of witnesses, would-be witnesses, & others, submitted for the Aug. 25, 2021 hearing on "New York State's System of Ethics Oversight and Enforcement" & related records

TO: Senate Records Access Officer/Secretary of the Senate Alejandra Paulino, ESQ.

Notwithstanding the trumpeting of the importance of transparency by Senate Ethics and Internal Governance Committee Chair Alessandra Biaggi at the Committee’s August 25, 2021 hearing on “New York State’s System of Ethics Oversight and

Enforcement”, the [webpage for the August 25th hearing](#) – like the [webpage for the postponed July 12th hearing](#) -- does NOT post the submitted written statements of the witnesses who were “invited” to testify before the Committee, let alone the written statements submitted by others, most importantly, those NOT “invited” to testify. Is this an oversight? Or is it intentional?

Pursuant to Senate Rule XIV – and in keeping with Chair Biaggi’s assertions: “A transparent government is a government that works for the People”, “I would argue that transparency is in the public interest especially when it comes to ethics, I think it is actually the essence and ethos of ethics” – this is to request:

- (1) all written statements submitted for the August 25th hearing by the witnesses who were “invited” to testify;
- (2) all written statements submitted by others, most importantly, those NOT “invited” to testify;
- (3) copies of e-mails from Chair Biaggi and/or her staff, in advance of the August 25th hearing, reflecting (i) which written statements they were disseminating; and (ii) the designated recipients of those e-mails, whether Senators, Assembly members, witnesses who would be testifying, the press, etc.
- (4) the written invitation(s) from Chair Biaggi to the Inspector General to testify at the August 25th hearing and/or at the postponed July 12th hearing – and the Inspector General’s written responses thereto, including **the Inspector General’s referred-to written “testimony”, “the last two paragraphs on the first page”** of which Chair Biaggi read at the August 25th hearing, **which I request be furnished, as immediately as possible.**

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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