

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 8:51 AM

To: 'palumbo@nysenate.gov'; 'senatorjbailey@nysenate.gov';
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Cc: 'hoylman@nysenate.gov'; 'brisport@nysenate.gov'; 'Kenan Kurt'; 'James Ostaszewski'; 'sdoggart@fclu.org'

Subject: **Today's "public protection" budget hearing -- & your questioning of Chief Administrative Judge Zayas & Commission on Judicial Conduct Administrator Tembeckjian**

Attachments: not-for-posting-cja-testimony-for-nov-1-senate-hearing-on-family-court-corrected.pdf; 1-18-24-opposition-report.pdf

TO: [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)

Ranking Member: Anthony Palumbo, Esq.

Rank & File Members: Jamaal Bailey, Esq.; Neil Breslin, Esq.;

Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Esq.; Andrew Gounardes, Esq.; Andrew Lanza, Esq.;

John Liu; Jack Martins, Esq.; Shelley Mayer, Esq.; Zellnor Myrie, Esq.;

Thomas O'Mara, Esq.; Jessica Ramos; Steven Rhoads, Esq.; Sean Ryan, Esq.;

Luis Sepulveda, Esq.; James Skoufis; Toby Ann Stavisky; Kevin Thomas, Esq.

TO: [Senate Committee on Children & Families](#)

Ranking Member: Rob Rolison

Rank & File Members: Jacob Ashby, Jamaal Bailey, Esq.; Samra Brouk,
Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Esq.; Roxanne Persaud

As I have received no response from your chairs, Hoylman-Sigal and Brisport, to my below January 23rd e-mail, above-attached is my written testimony for your November 1, 2023 oversight hearing of family court, germane to your questioning of Chief Administrative Judge Zayas and Commission on Judicial Conduct Administrator Tembeckjian at today's "public protection" budget hearing.

Also, for the members of the Committee on Children & Families, here's CJA's January 18, 2024 Opposition Report to the December 4, 2023 Report of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation, in the event it was not forwarded to you by your Senate leaders and fellow senators.

I am available by phone and e-mail to answer questions.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:33 AM

To: 'hoylman@nysenate.gov' <hoylman@nysenate.gov>; 'brisport@nysenate.gov' <brisport@nysenate.gov>
Cc: 'kurt@nysenate.gov' <kurt@nysenate.gov>; 'ostaszew@nysenate.gov' <ostaszew@nysenate.gov>; sdoggart@fclu.org

Subject: Jan 25th "public protection" budget hearing -- & the Senate Judiciary Committee & Committee on Children & Families' questioning of witnesses

TO: [Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Brad Hoylman-Sigal, ESQ.](#)
[Senate Committee on Children & Families Chair Jabari Brisport](#)

I have received no response from you to my below December 1st e-mail.

Did you respond? Most importantly, did you forward to ALL members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Committee on Children and Families my unredacted written testimony [link removed] that I had submitted for the record of the November 1st oversight hearing, after you had denied me the opportunity to testify? And what about the [New York Families Civil Liberties Union \(FCLU\) report](#) that its executive director, Sebastian Doggart, had submitted to you, after you had denied his request to testify?

I note that the FCLU report is still NOT posted on the [Senate webpage for the November 1st oversight hearing](#) – and mine was only posted AFTER my below December 1st e-mail and [December 1st FOIL appeal to Senate Majority Counsel](#) of the Secretary of the Senate's denial of my October 26, 2023 FOIL request for:

“(1) the witness list for the November 1st hearing that, allegedly, had ‘already [been] finalized’ by October 26th; and

(2) ‘records reflecting the persons/entities’ invited to testify at the November 1st hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee and/or Senate Committee on Children and Families. “

As my testimony – and the FCLU Report – are plainly germane to the ability of members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Committee on Children & Families to meaningfully question witnesses at [the Legislature's January 25th “public protection” budget hearing](#) – whose first witnesses are usually the Unified Court System's chief administrative judge and the Commission on Judicial Conduct's administrator, Robert Tembeckjian, thereafter followed by a panoply of taxpayer-paid legal service providers – please advise, without delay, as to whether ALL Committee members were furnished with my testimony and the FCLU Report.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:22 AM
To: 'Kenan Kurt' <kurt@nysenate.gov>; 'James Ostaszewski' <ostaszew@nysenate.gov>
Cc: 'hoylman@nysenate.gov' <hoylman@nysenate.gov>; 'brisport@nysenate.gov' <brisport@nysenate.gov>; sdoggart@fclu.org

Subject: Why does the Senate webpage for the Nov 1st oversight hearing of Family Court NOT post CJA's written testimony -- or the FCLU report -- & did you distribute to committee members?

TO: [Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Brad Hoylman-Sigal, ESQ.](#)
[Senate Committee on Children & Families Chair Jabari Brisport](#)

[The Senate webpage for the November 1st oversight hearing of Family Court](#) does NOT post my above-attached redacted written testimony, which I e-mailed for posting on November 6th by the below – nor [the Families Civil Liberties Union \(FCLU\) report](#), e-mailed for posting by its executive director, Sebastian Doggart, on October 31st, after his request to orally testify was refused. Why is that?

Also, was my unredacted written testimony forwarded to ALL members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and of the Senate Committee on Children and Families? What about the FCLU report? Please advise.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 1:23 PM
To: 'Kenan Kurt' <kurt@nysenate.gov>; 'James Ostaszewski' <ostaszew@nysenate.gov>

Subject: #2 -- FOR POSTING: Superseding/Corrected: CJA's (REDACTED) Testimony for the Record of the Nov 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing of the NY Family Court by the Senate Judiciary Committee & Senate Committee on Children & Families

TO: [Senate Judiciary Committee & Senate Committee on Children & Families](#)
Kenan Kurt/Chief of Staff Counsel -- Senate Judiciary Committee

James Ostaszewski/Counsel & Legislative Director – Committee on Children & Families

Following up the e-mail I just sent you, the above-attached REDACTED testimony is FOR POSTING on [your webpage for the November 1st oversight hearing](#) – and corrects typos and makes limited substantive additions to what I sent you on Friday by the below.

Thank you – and apologies for any inconvenience.

Elena Sassower
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 4:54 PM
To: 'Kenan Kurt' <kurt@nysenate.gov>; 'James Ostaszewski' <ostaszew@nysenate.gov>

Subject: FOR POSTING: CJA's Testimony for the Record of the Nov 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing of the NY Family Court by the Senate Judiciary Committee & Senate Committee on Children & Families -- (This is #2: FOR POSTING)

Following up my below e-mail, here's my testimony for the record of the Nov 1st hearing – with the LIVE link removed – for posting on [your webpage for the hearing](#).

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 4:47 PM
To: 'Kenan Kurt' <kurt@nysenate.gov>; 'James Ostaszewski' <ostaszew@nysenate.gov>

Subject: CJA's Testimony for the Record of the Nov 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing of the NY Family Court by the Senate Judiciary Committee & Senate Committee on Children & Families -- #1: NOT FOR POSTING

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee & Senate Committee on Children & Families

Kenan Kurt/Chief of Staff Counsel -- Senate Judiciary Committee
James Ostaszewski/Counsel & Legislative Director – Committee on Children & Families

As instructed yesterday by Senator Hoylman's Communications Officer/Legislative Aide Gabby, above is my written testimony for the record of the Nov 1st oversight hearing, required to be submitted by 5 pm today for inclusion. Because its last paragraph contains a LIVE link to my October 25, 2023 complaint pertaining to a sealed Family Court case, I will separately send you the identical written testimony with the LIVE link removed, for posting on [your webpage for the hearing](#). The LIVE-link version, here attached, is for the Senators and appropriate staff.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 4:55 PM

To: 'cjc@cjc.ny.gov' <cjc@cjc.ny.gov>; 'ig@nycourts.gov' <ig@nycourts.gov>; 'cmartucc@nycourts.gov' <cmartucc@nycourts.gov>

Cc: 'NYS Salary Commission' <nyscompensation@gmail.com>

Subject: Corruption Complaint: Monroe County Family & Supreme Courts & Fourth Dept Appellate Division -- Follow-up to Testimony at Oct 13th Hearing of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation

**TO: New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct
Appellate Division, Fourth Department Attorney Grievance Committees (7th Judicial District)
Unified Court System Inspector General Kay-Ann Porter Campbell
Chief Administrative Judge Joseph Zayas
Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters Richard Rivera**

Above-attached & here linked is my "Corruption Complaint against Judges, Government-Attorneys, & Government-Retained Attorneys Arising from a Fraudulent, Culturally-Biased Child Abuse/Neglect Petition against Innocent Parents". Its "Conclusion" (at p. 29) reads:

"The foregoing long-overdue complaint is being furnished, additionally, to the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, before which I testified on October 13, 2023, handing up a copy of the [link removed] Independent Expert Report, in substantiation of my testimony as to the corruption infesting the judiciary – a threshold, 'appropriate factor' of constitutional dimension that it is statutorily-required to 'take into account'. My words were as follows ([VIDEO, at 2hrs/45mins](#)):

'Lastly, I don't want you to believe that the corruption infesting the judiciary is only in cases of magnitude such as the cases that I have here presented. I have a, a independent report that I wrote about a Family Court case out of Monroe County, a mother called me in distress because her child had been taken away from her. And she begged me to assist her. Without charge, I, I examined the record -- and I wrote a report that was furnished, it's a sealed file. I think you should take a look at what

goes on, and you should know this is only the first piece of it. But the corruption involving this report at the Family Court level, at the Appellate Division Fourth Department from which you come, Chair Fahey, you need to take testimony. You have subpoena power. You need to – you need to examine the corruption in the judiciary –‘

The only correction I would make is to add a reference to the corresponding corruption in the Monroe County Supreme Court pertaining to the Independent Expert Report.

As [the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation’s enabling statute requires you to assist the Commission, upon its request](#),^{fn3} perhaps that is the most expeditious way for it to proceed – requesting that you furnish it with the results of the investigation that is your duty to make with respect to this fully-documented, facially-meritorious complaint.”

I am available to assist you, to the max, in investigating this complaint – and would welcome giving testimony under oath. I know the innocent parents feel likewise.

[redacted]

Thank you.

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NOTE to Cindy Martucci/Assistant to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. Following up our phone conversation at 3:40 this afternoon, kindly forward this e-mail to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas and Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters Rivera – and, additionally, to the Fourth Department’s Attorney Grievance Committee for the Seventh Judicial District, which does not make an e-mail address for complaints and/or communications available. Thank you.