

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 12:20 PM
To: klhowe@cortland-co.org
Subject: **Has Cortland County NOT paid its district attorney ANY salary increases pursuant to the 2011 and 2015 Commission reports raising judicial salaries?**
Attachments: [7-28-17-reconsideration-3rd-dept-with-enclosures.pdf](#)

Dear County Attorney Howe –

This follows my e-mail communication to you last year – including by the below – and my phone conversation, a short time ago, with your confidential secretary, Maria Adsit, requesting to speak with you about Cortland County District Attorney Patrick Perfetti’s surprising statement to me that Cortland County is the ONLY New York county which has NOT authorized its district attorney to receive any salary increases pursuant to the 2011 report of the Commission on Judicial Compensation and the 2015 report of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation.

Is this true? As I expect to testify at the Legislature’s budget hearings in January/February 2018 on the subject, much as I testified about it at the Legislature’s January 30, 2017 budget hearing: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/budget-hearings.htm>, I would appreciate your return call, at your earliest convenience.

Meantime, here’s the direct link to the menu page of the Center for Judicial Accountability’s website, www.judgewatch.org, for the October 14, 2016 conflict-of-interest/misconduct complaint I filed with the Third Judicial Department’s Attorney Grievance Committee against, *inter alia*, D.A. Perfetti’s predecessor, Mark Suben, pertaining to the district attorney salary increases – a copy of which I had simultaneously e-mailed to then D.A. Suben: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/budget-2016-17/menu-10-14-16-complaint-vs-soares-etc.htm>.

The Grievance Committee’s chief attorney “sat” on the complaint for 8-1/2 months before notifying me that the complaint was not going to be investigated. On Friday, July 28, 2017, I filed a reconsideration request with the Grievance Committee – e-mailing it simultaneously to Mr. Suben, which thereupon bounced-back because he is no longer Cortland County D.A. It was this bounce-back that prompted my phone call shortly after 10 a.m. this morning to his successor, D.A. Perfetti, who – in response to my inquiry – recollected that, last year, when he was running to defeat then D.A. Suben, I had telephoned his law office and furnished his paralegal with the information about the October 14, 2016 conflict-of-interest/misconduct complaint.

D.A. Perfetti refused my request that he forward the July 28, 2017 reconsideration request to Mr. Suben. Nor would he give me his district attorney e-mail address so that I could e-mail him the July 28, 2017 reconsideration request. He rejected my assertion that, as successor D.A., he has any responsibility with respect to the district attorney salary increases – because, according to him, he does not receive these increases, just as Mr. Suben had received none. Obviously, you have the ability to forward the July 28, 2017 reconsideration request to D.A. Perfetti and former D.A. Suben – and, by this e-mail, I ask that you do so. For your further convenience – and theirs – the direct link to the webpage on which the July 28, 2017 reconsideration request is posted is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/budget-2016-17/responses-to-10-14-16-complaint.htm>.

Thank you.

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

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 9:55 AM
To: 'klhowe@cortland-co.org' <klhowe@cortland-co.org>
Cc: 'msuben@cortland-co.org' <msuben@cortland-co.org>

Subject: Notice to Cortland Co. Government: Your duty to repudiate & challenge the state-imposed D.A. salary increases based on your own D.A. Suben's findings of facts and conclusions of law

TO: Cortland County Attorney Karen Howe –

Kindly supersede the July 8, 2016 letter I previously sent you with the attached materially revised, clarifying letter – and furnish to all Cortland County legislators, executive officers & the treasurer/comptroller. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I will assume you have done so.

To assist Cortland County in taking protective steps, I am directly sending this e-mail to Cortland County District Attorney Suben so as to further reinforce his duty to promptly furnish you and Cortland County's other public officers with his findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to the citizen-taxpayer action, *Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. v. Cuomo, et al.* (Albany Co. #1788-2014). Does he deny or dispute its rock-solid evidentiary showing that the judicial salary increases, on which his own district attorney salary increases rest, are statutorily-violative, fraudulent -- & unconstitutional? How about our June 21, 2016 corruption complaint filed with Albany County District Attorney Soares? Does he deny or dispute its sufficiency for founding criminal indictments for violations of the penal law – and convictions?

For the convenience of all, the direct link to CJA's webpage for the attached July 8, 2016 letter, from which all referred-to correspondence and substantiating evidence are accessible, is here:
<http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/budget-2016-17/7-8-16-ltr-to-counties.htm> .

Feel free to call with any questions.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200