

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 5:09 PM

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**Cc:** 'ayer@albanylaw.edu'

**Subject:** **Did AG James' Jan. 23, 2023 (proposed) nomination of Ava Ayers morph into a formal nomination that she sent to the Independent Review Committee?**

**TO: COELIG Independent Review Committee Law School Deans (IRC)**

SUNY-Buffalo Law School Dean Aviva Abramovsky  
CUNY-Queens College Law School Dean Sudha Setty  
Albany Law School Dean Alicia Ouellette  
Brooklyn Law School Dean Michael T. Cahill  
Columbia University Law School Dean Gillian Lester  
Cornell University Law School Dean Jens David Ohlin  
Fordham Law School Dean Matthew Diller  
Hofstra Law School Dean Gail Prudenti  
New York Law School Dean Anthony Crowell  
New York University Law School Dean Troy McKenzie  
Pace University Law School Dean Horace E. Anderson, Jr.  
St. John's University Law School Dean Michael A. Simons  
Syracuse University Law School Dean Craig M. Boise  
Touro College Law School Elena B. Langan  
Yeshiva University Cardozo Law School Dean Melanie Leslie

I have received no response from Attorney General James to my January 30, 2023 written comment in opposition to her (proposed) nomination of Albany Law School Associate Professor Ava Ayers to the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG). I have also received no response from Associate Professor Ayers to whom I sent the opposition comment the following day, so that she might have the due process opportunity to deny or dispute its accuracy.

In the event Attorney General James "formally nominated" Associate Professor Ayers and did not furnish you with my opposition comment, as she was required to do, and, likewise, that Associate Professor Ayers did not furnish you with the opposition comment and my accompanying e-mail to her, both are below.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 1:30 PM  
**To:** 'aayer@albanylaw.edu' <[aayer@albanylaw.edu](mailto:aayer@albanylaw.edu)>

**Subject: Your (proposed) nomination to the Commission on Ethics & Lobbying in Gov't -- & the "Follow the Evidence" Duty of Scholarship & Research & Teaching Institutes**

**TO: AVA AYERS, ESQ./ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW – ALBANY LAW SCHOOL**

Below is the written comment I submitted yesterday *via* Attorney General James' webportal in opposition to your (proposed) nomination to the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government. I am furnishing it to you so that you can have the due process opportunity to deny or dispute its accuracy.

As the duty of scholarship and of research and teaching institutes is to "follow the evidence" where it leads, NOT cherry-pick out what runs counter to self-interest, please confirm that as a scholar of "[ethics and professional responsibility](#)", "[government law and policy](#)", and the "[legal profession](#)", teaching Albany Law School students in these areas, you will be confronting the [CJA v. Cuomo, et al.](#) and [CJA v. JCOPE, et al.](#) lawsuit records and the records of CJA's ethics and criminal complaints based thereon. *Or do you dispute that this primary-source, documentary evidence is DISPOSITIVE of the catastrophic unconstitutionality and lawlessness that prevails in this state's governance, whose linchpin is the corruption of the Office of the New York State Attorney General, in tandem with New York's judiciary.*

I am available to assist you in discharging your professional and civic duties – better belated than not at all.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**Comment opposing AG James' (proposed) nomination of Ava Ayers to the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government, sent at 2:55 pm on Jan. 30, 2023, via the AG's webportal: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/2023/attorney-general-james-announces-nominee-the-commission-ethics-lobbying-and>**

Contrary to [AG James' January 23, 2023 press announcement](#) for this appalling (proposed) nomination, Ava Ayers is TOTALLY unfit for any position of public trust, let alone ethics enforcement involving conflicts

of interest – as I can attest from direct, first-hand-experience with her, in August 2018, when she was Andrew Ayers, director of [Albany Law School's Government Law Center](#), and used his position to insulate from accountability corrupt public officers with whom he had and has personal and professional relationships and shared interests. She will doubtless do the same at the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (CELG), whose unconstitutional enactment in the FY2022-23 state budget as a replacement to JCOPE resulted from Attorney General James' litigation fraud in 2019 at the New York Court of Appeals in CJA's citizen-taxpayer action [CJA v. Cuomo, et al.](#), to which former Attorney General Schneiderman was a named defendant, and whose deleterious, post-enactment existence, beginning July 8, 2022, Attorney General James enabled and has perpetuated by her litigation fraud in CJA's successor lawsuit, [CJA v. JCOPE, et al.](#), to which she is a named respondent/defendant.

The facts are as follows:

On August 2, 2018, in an effort to build what did not then and does not now exist, evidence-based scholarship about the unconstitutionality and flagrant dysfunctioning of New York state governance – and to obtain expert opinion and *amicus curiae* support – I hand-delivered to the Government Law Center, which purports to do “nonpartisan legal research and analysis” pertaining to state governance, including court decisions, a copy of the [three-volume record on appeal and appeal brief](#) in *CJA v. Cuomo, et al.*, then at the Appellate Division, Third Department, where it was being defended by then Attorney General/Solicitor General Underwood. Its ten causes of action against New York's three government branches chronicled their collusion in an “OFF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RAILS” state budget, embedding judicial pay raises for New York's unaccountable and systemically corrupt state judiciary, procured through two statutorily-violative, fraudulent, and unconstitutional “force of law” reports of compensation commissions – as to which former Attorney General Schneiderman, in the absence of ANY legitimate defense, had corrupted the judicial process with litigation fraud and was rewarded by fraudulent judicial decisions. This was the same three-volume record on appeal and appeal brief that 2-1/2 weeks earlier, on July 16, 2018, I had given, *in hand*, to then New York City Public Advocate James, running for the democratic nomination for attorney general, so that she could show herself worthy of election by “blowing the whistle” and repudiating the *modus operandi* of litigation fraud by which the attorney general operates.

Mr. Ayers' response, as director of the Government Law Center, to this record proof of corruption by the attorney general and an acting supreme court justice who, in addition to being a direct beneficiary of the challenged judicial pay raises, had, for 30 years, worked in the attorney general's office, including under Cuomo, who then, as governor, appointed her to the bench – was to castigate me for having delivered the three-volume record and brief to the Government Law Center, refusing to opine about it, refusing to forward it to scholars who would, and refusing to make it available to students so that they might examine what the judicial process looks like in lawsuits challenging open-and-shut, *prima facie* lawlessness and unconstitutionality at the highest levels of New York state government. Indeed, Mr. Ayers was not ashamed to tell me – in response to my entreaty for the return of the three-volume record on appeal and brief – that they may have already been discarded.

Thereafter, without a coverletter, Mr. Ayers did return to me the three-volume record and brief, which I had told him cost nearly \$100 to copy and bind. Photos of the August 20, 2018 postage label, of the box from the Government Law Center to which it was and is affixed, and of the returned contents are posted on CJA's webpage for Mr. Ayers' unworthy nomination: <https://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/celg/ayers-webpage.htm>. There also posted are links to webpages and pdfs of the three-volume record and brief – and of the subsequent record of *CJA v. Cuomo, et al.* at the Appellate Division and at the Court of Appeals – thereafter embodied in CJA's complaints to appropriate authorities,

including, with respect to Attorney General James, Solicitor General Underwood, and their underling staff attorneys:

- (1) [CJA's February 11, 2021 complaint to New York's attorney grievance committees](#) – and, pertaining to Attorney General James' litigation fraud in *CJA v. JCOPE, et al.*, [CJA's October 10, 2022 complaint to the First Department Attorney Grievance Committee](#),
- (2) [CJA's March 5, 2021 complaint to JCOPE](#), resting, *inter alia*, on [CJA's June 4, 2020 grand jury/public corruption complaint to Albany County District Attorney Soares](#)
- (3) [CJA's July 8, 2022 "DAY ONE" complaint to CELG and October 6, 2022 supplement thereto](#), pertaining to Attorney General James' litigation fraud in *CJA v. JCOPE, et al.*

Why don't you ask Ms. Ayers whether, during our August 2018 phone conversation, he disclosed his conflicts of interest that accounted for his indefensible behavior to me and betrayal of his academic responsibilities, as, for instance, that he "[worked for nine years in the office of the New York Attorney General, where \[he was a Senior Assistant Solicitor General\]](#)", in other words, working with and under the very persons whose flagrant corruption the three-volume record on appeal in *CJA v. Cuomo, et al.* documentarily proved and who were then just as flagrantly corrupting the judicial process at the Appellate Division, as I surely told him – perhaps even guiding him to the [VIDEO of the August 2, 2018 oral argument](#) at the Appellate Division on the TRO/preliminary injunction sought by [CJA's order to show cause](#) in the case.

So that Ms. Ayers will have an opportunity to respond – and to give her notice of her duty, as a scholar, to embody it into her "[area\[s\] of study](#)" and the courses she teaches at Albany Law School on "[ethics and professional responsibility](#)", "[government law and policy](#)", and the "[legal profession](#)" – I will be sending this message to her tomorrow, as an e-mail.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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