

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 1:55 PM
To: jaci@fairmediacouncil.org
Subject: **THANKSGIVING THANKS for the Fair Media Council, its Dec 3, 2019 Conference -- & for opportunities for evidence-based dialogue, scholarship - & solutions essential to our democracy**
Attachments: [8-21-19-email-gotham-gaz-city-limits.pdf](#);
[9-4-19-email-gotham-gazette-city-limits.pdf](#);
[9-6-19-email-propublica.pdf](#);
[8-21-19-nylj-ltr.pdf](#);
[9-3-19-foil-public-campaign-finance.pdf](#);

Dear Jaci,

Yes, the ticket is for me – so we're set.

Most importantly – and appropriately for Thanksgiving – thank you for putting together such an important conference – and for being CEO & executive director of the Fair Media Council. I did not know about either the Fair Media Council or the December 3rd conference, until the wee hours of this morning, while patrolling the internet for media coverage of New York's Public Campaign Financing and Election Commission. Did you place an announcement about the conference on the Gotham Gazette's website? That's where I saw it – abutting this Gotham Gazette article:
<https://www.gothamgazette.com/state/8960-state-legislators-criticize-campaign-finance-commission-outcomes-while-legislative-leaders-mum-cuomo-heastie>.

As co-founder and director of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), I have 30 years of in-the-trenches, direct, first-hand experience with the media, evidenced by a treasure trove of documentary evidence, including TWO major lawsuits, brought in the public interest, to establish some semblance of First Amendment responsibility and journalistic accountability by causes of action for "journalistic fraud" and "reckless institutional disregard for truth", the first lawsuit, against The New York Times, the second lawsuit, against Gannett. CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, posts this 30-year archive of documentary evidence, accessible from the left sidebar panel "Press Suppression". The direct link is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/press-suppression/press-suppression.htm>.

As illustrative of how the media operates, including Gotham Gazette, here's the direct link to our menu page of the "Press in Action/Inaction" relating to the Public Campaign Financing and Election Commission. From it you can examine my exhaustive outreach this past August and September to New York media, big and small, statewide, regional, and local: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/force-of-law-commissions/press-force-of-law-commissions/press-part-xxx-menu.htm> -- and the ZERO results it produced, other than my own published letter to the editor in the New York Law Journal, on August 20th and 21st, as to which there has been NO follow-up, including by the New York Law Journal.

From that link you can access my August 21st and September 4th e-mails to Gotham Gazette, which, for your convenience, I've attached. You can also access my September 6th e-mail to ProPublica, pleading for its help in getting news reporting/investigation for the "MAJOR, MAJOR news story" reflected by my August and September media outreach. This I am also attaching, inasmuch as ProPublica President Dick Tofel is a featured speaker at the December 3rd conference – and I sent my September 6th e-mail to him, among other ProPublica recipients.

I received no response from ProPublica to my September 6th e-mail, nor from Gotham Gazette to my August 21st and September 4th e-mails, nor from virtually every other media and reporter to whom I reached out. I would, therefore, greatly appreciate if – after you read the September 6th e-mail I sent to Mr. Tofel and its above two attachments – that you forward him this e-mail so that he can advise as to what I needed to do differently to garner a response from ProPublica and other media to the still unreported, readily-verifiable, politically-explosive story of the unconstitutionality of the Public Campaign Financing and Election Commission – and of the "force of law" commissions on legislative, judicial and executive compensation – established by the record of CJA's citizen-taxpayer action, at the Court of Appeals – the subject of my New York Law Journal letter.

That citizen-taxpayer action, *CJA v. Cuomo, et al.*, which we brought "on behalf of the People of the State of New York & the Public Interest", sues the highest constitutional officers of New York's three government branches for collusion against the People, corruption, and "grand larceny of the public fisc" with respect to these "force of law" commissions – and challenges the constitutionality and lawfulness of the whole of the state budget. On top of this, it is the first lawsuit, ever, to challenge the constitutionality of New York's "three-men-in-a-room" budget deal-making and the Legislature's closed-door party conferences that substitute for open legislative deliberation and functioning committees.

The record of the citizen-taxpayer action, at the Court of Appeals, is here:

<http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/citizen-taxpayer-action/2nd/record-ct-of-appeals.htm> -- and includes CJA's final November 25th motion. My most recent testimony about the lawsuit, was on November 4th, before the current Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, which has been operating "under the radar". Here's the direct link to the VIDEO of my testimony– and the evidence I furnished the Commission in substantiation, beginning with my published New York Law Journal letter: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/force-of-law-commissions/part-e-chapter60-laws-2015/cja-nov4-2019-testimony.htm>.

Obviously, I have Mr. Tofel's e-mail address. Although I would ordinarily cc him on this e-mail, I have not done so in deference to what I believe the role of the Fair Media Counsel is, or should be: a forum for dialogue about how the media actually operates based on evidence, not platitudes – and for building honest, non-partisan scholarship about that evidence, which, *if it exists*, I have not found.

Again, thank you. I am so looking forward to next week's conference. It is absolutely critical to our democracy that there be "fair media" – and media investigation and reporting, as immediately as possible, of CJA's landmark citizen-taxpayer action, whose only media report, to date, more than three years after it was commenced, was by the Law Journal's publication of my letter.

Sincerely,

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

www.judgewatch.org

914-421-1200

From: Jaci Clement <jaci@fairmediacouncil.org>

Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 8:09 AM

To: elena@judgewatch.org

Subject: Your ticket to The News Conference

Hi Elena,

We have received your ticket purchase and as long as the ticket should be in your name, you are all set for the Dec. 3 event. (If you purchased it for someone else, we'll need that name for the registration desk. We don't issue hard tickets.)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

All the best,

Jaci Clement | CEO & Executive Director

[Fair Media Council](#) | **Advocating for Quality News & Creating a Media Savvy Society.**

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RESERVE NOW FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 3: "The News Conference: Real & Powerful" brings national, regional & local news together with the public to increase your media savvy.

Breakfast with BuzzFeed News Editor in Chief Ben Smith, ProPublica President Richard Tofel and Sree Sreenivasan.

Luncheon fireside chat with CNN Senior Political Analyst John Avlon & Margaret Hoover, CNN Political Correspondent & Host, PBS' Firing Line (& great granddaughter of the 31st president of the United States).

PLUS 12 panel discussions, amazing networking.

It happens Tuesday, Dec. 3 at The Garden City Hotel, 8 am - 4 pm.