

## **Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)**

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**From:** Richard Tofel <Dick.Tofel@propublica.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 6:42 PM  
**To:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
**Subject:** RE: CLARIFICATION REQUESTED: Who are ProPublica's "editors" who did "not see" "a story for us" -- & was there any discussion of conflicts of interest impacting on judgment?

Ms. Sassower, I think we've come to the end of this exchange. If you don't believe me, it is, of course, your prerogative to approach my editorial colleagues yourself.

Regards, Dick

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 5:52 PM  
**To:** Richard Tofel <Dick.Tofel@propublica.org>  
**Subject:** CLARIFICATION REQUESTED: Who are ProPublica's "editors" who did "not see" "a story for us" -- & was there any discussion of conflicts of interest impacting on judgment?

**TO: Richard Tofel, President/ProPublica**

I am at a loss to understand your e-mail – and request clarification.

Who are the unnamed ProPublica “editors” who you state did “not see” “a story for us”? Are they the topmost editors whose names and contact info appear on the ProPublica website: <https://www.propublica.org/staff/> -- Editor-in-Chief Stephen Engelberg, Managing Editor Robin Fields, and the three Deputy Managing Editors: Scott Klein, Charles Ornstein; and Eric Umansky? Or are they the roughly dozen-and-a-half other editors listed? Consistent with ProPublica’s posted Code of Ethics: <https://www.propublica.org/code-of-ethics/>, did any of the “editors” – or you – disclose and discuss conflicts of interest, impairing and impacting on judgment?

Also, did you give the “editors” ALL the “materials” I furnished you on December 3<sup>rd</sup> – none more important and revealing of conflicts of interest than my November 27, 2019 e-mail “THANKSGIVING THANKS for the Fair Media Council, its Dec 3, 2019 Conference – & for opportunities for evidence-based dialogue, scholarship – & solutions essential to our democracy”.

As you do not purport to have given the “editors” my yesterday’s e-mail to you – and I believe it will assist them in reassessing the situation and ProPublica’s civic and ethical obligations, I ask that you forward it to them. Indeed, is it possible that you yourself did not read my yesterday’s e-mail to the end?

Suffice to say that all the questions asked by my e-mail for purposes of prompting “evidence-based dialogue” – none of which you answered – will guide your “editors” to the only answers possible.

Please advise – as otherwise I will have no choice but to contact the “editors” directly.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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