

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2021 8:12 AM

To: Jeremy.Kutner@propublica.org

Cc: jeremy.caplan@journalism.cuny.edu; Robert.Faturechi@propublica.org; Jeff.Ernsthausen@propublica.org; paul.kiel@propublica.org; doris.burke@propublica.org; tips@propublica.org; stephen.engelberg@propublica.org; dick.tofel@propublica.org; robin.fields@propublica.org; Charles.Ornstein@propublica.org; eric.umansky@propublica.org; scott.klein@propublica.org; marshall.allen@journalism.cuny.edu; marshall.allen@propublica.org

Subject: **TO: ProPublica General Counsel Kutner -- The Ethics of Your Journalism -- "Leading Manhattan DA Candidate Has Repeatedly Paid Virtually No Federal Income Taxes" (ProPublica, 6/16/21)**

Attachments: [6-9-20-complaint-ny-da-vance-corrected.pdf](#);
[new-york-7-29-20-da-foil.pdf](#)

TO: ProPublica General Counsel Jeremy Kutner –

Yesterday, after sending, at 3:33 pm, the e-mail entitled “The Ethics of Your Journalism – ‘Leading Manhattan DA Candidate Has Repeatedly Paid Virtually No Federal Income Taxes’ (ProPublica, 6/16/21)”, I noticed a misspelling – and so corrected it and made two other minor non-substantive changes in re-sending it, 45 minutes later, at 4:15 pm, by the below.

You would not have received that 4:15 pm e-mail because – as I have just now noticed -- I made an error in your e-mail address, inadvertently selecting, *via* the automatic fill-in feature, the e-mail address for a different Jeremy – Jeremy Caplan, Director of Teaching, Learning and Assessment at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY.

Apologies to him – and you.

To you – and the other ProPublica recipients of this e-mail -- I take this opportunity, by the below, to slightly revise, for clarity, the 4th paragraph of my yesterday’s 4:45 pm e-mail. Future forwarding of the 4:45 pm e-mail will substitute this revision of that paragraph.

To Jeremy Caplan, to whom my only previous contact was by my [June 15th e-mail entitled “Where are your student journalists, reporting on the NYC elections...”](#), I take this opportunity to advise that I have received no answer from you to that question – repeated as the e-mail’s first sentence -- nor response to its request: “Please pass this onto your journalism students. Surely there are some that are interested in political and legal journalism...” Likewise, I have received nothing from your 11 colleagues at CUNY’s Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism, to whom, with you, the June 15th e-mail was sent. This includes [Dean Sarah Bartlett](#) and [John Mancini](#), who [together run](#) the school’s [NYCity News Service](#). It also includes [adjunct faculty member Marshall Allen](#), who, because he is a [ProPublica](#) reporter, I had included on that June 15th e-mail to CUNY’s J-school. As it is fitting that Mr. Allen be apprised of the situation in both locales in which he works – particularly in light of his master’s degree in theology and 5 years spent in full-time ministry -- I am adding him as a cc on this e-mail.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 4:15 PM
To: 'Robert.Faturechi@propublica.org' <Robert.Faturechi@propublica.org>;
'Jeff.Ernsthausen@propublica.org' <Jeff.Ernsthausen@propublica.org>; 'paul.kiel@propublica.org'
<paul.kiel@propublica.org>; 'doris.burke@propublica.org' <doris.burke@propublica.org>
Cc: 'tips@propublica.org' <tips@propublica.org>; 'stephen.engelberg@propublica.org'
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'robin.fields@propublica.org' <robin.fields@propublica.org>; 'Charles.Ornstein@propublica.org'
<Charles.Ornstein@propublica.org>; 'eric.umansky@propublica.org' <eric.umansky@propublica.org>;
'scott.klein@propublica.org' <scott.klein@propublica.org>; 'jeremy.caplan@journalism.cuny.edu'
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Subject: The Ethics of Your Journalism -- "Leading Manhattan DA Candidate Has Repeatedly Paid Virtually No Federal Income Taxes" (ProPublica, 6/16/21)

TO: ProPublica Reporters Robert Faturechi, Jeff Ernsthausen, Paul Kiel, and Doris Burke

Your June 16th article "[Leading Manhattan DA Candidate Has Repeatedly Paid Virtually No Federal Income Taxes](#)" concedes "There is no indication [candidate Weinstein and her husband] did anything illegal" – but justifies impacting on the electoral race, adverse to her, because "ProPublica concluded the public interest would be served by letting voters and other taxpayers see her tax history".

Yet the day before, on June 15th, our nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), had sent ProPublica's president and top editors – in addition to tips@propublica.org – an e-mail furnishing open-and-shut, *prima facie* EVIDENCE of corrupt conduct by Manhattan D.A. candidate Bragg, as chief deputy state attorney general, and by Manhattan D.A. candidate Quart, as a state legislator -- including as embodied in the above-attached June 9, 2020 grand jury/public corruption complaint that Manhattan D.A. Vance has been "sitting on". Such EVIDENCE had been furnished to D.A. candidate Weinstein – and ALL her fellow D.A. candidates – by a June 14th e-mail that had stated:

"No candidate may be deemed fit to serve as Manhattan D.A. – or to occupy ANY office of public trust – who does not, based on the [posted EVIDENCE](#), whistle-blow loudly and NOW – with an unequivocal pledge to Manhattan voters that, if elected, he/she will present the [June 9, 2020 grand jury/public corruption complaint](#) to a Manhattan grand jury – and obtain and release responsive answers to the above-attached [July 29, 2020 FOIL/information request](#) to which D.A. Vance has not responded. Will Messrs. Bragg and Quart do that? How about the rest of you?"

The June 15th e-mail to ProPublica entitled "Behind-the-Scenes: Testing the fitness of the Manhattan D.A. candidates, with EVIDENCE -- public corruption & the grand jury responsibilities of the D.A.'s office" is below, with the June 14th e-mail it had forwarded. Were you unaware of the June 15th e-mail and of ProPublica's conflicts of interest, referred to therein?

To assist you, I've created a [webpage aggregating CJA's prior e-mails to ProPublica](#) so that you can see for yourselves what [ProPublica](#) has known, in what context, and when – including its president and highest editors – about the massive corruption in New York state governance, for which Manhattan D.A. candidates Bragg and Quart are responsible, involving an unconstitutional and larcenous state budget and “false instrument” commission/committee reports that have raised salaries for judges, for D.A.s based thereon, for the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, and all 213 state legislators – enabled by wilfully nonfeasant and corrupted criminal and ethics authorities and by judges who have corrupted the judicial process, in tandem with the attorney general – all covered up, completely, by New York's press, which, for years, has been rigging the re-elections of corrupt public officers, as likewise their elections and appointments to other and higher offices.

Based on the foregoing – and consistent with [ProPublica's](#) posted [Code of Ethics](#) “designed to supplement [ProPublica's](#) Conflicts of Interest Policy (required by the Internal Revenue Service)” – I ask you to evaluate whether you believe [ProPublica's](#) publication of the June 16th article bearing your names was, in fact, the ethical, responsible journalism it purports to be – and, additionally, that you assess your professional, ethical, and civic responsibilities going forward.

Specifically, in view of the catastrophic public corruption established by the [EVIDENTIARY narrative webpage substantiating CJA's June 14th e-mail](#), itself posting the above two attachments – as to which the NON-responses by candidate Weinstein and her seven fellow Democratic D.A. candidates are – by any cognizable standard – not only DISPOSITIVE of their unfitness for public service – but of the frauds they have each been perpetrating upon Manhattan voters ever since, will you take steps to ensure [ProPublica's](#) investigative report of the June 14th e-mail. To that end, will you – if necessary – ensure that this e-mail containing the June 14th e-mail is forwarded to all members of [ProPublica's board of directors, journalism advisory board, and leadership council](#) so that they can verify, for themselves, the partisan, self-serving, and conflict-driven fashion in which its [president and highest editors](#) have compromised [ProPublica's](#) tax-exempt, nonprofit status and betrayed its mission of investigative journalism that “holds power to account” – particularly when the “power” includes and implicates the press, starting with [The New York Times](#).

Suffice to add, the only response I received to CJA's below June 15th e-mail to [ProPublica](#) was an automated acknowledgment from tips@propublica.org, stating it would be reviewed by “our editorial staff...and a reporter here may contact you.” I have received no “contact”.

Please advise, as soon as possible, so that I may know how to proceed. I am available to answer any questions and to assist you, to the fullest.

Thank you.

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

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 3:36 PM

To: 'tips@propublica.org' <tips@propublica.org>; 'stephen.engelberg@propublica.org' <stephen.engelberg@propublica.org>; 'dick.tofel@propublica.org' <dick.tofel@propublica.org>;

'robin.fields@propublica.org' <robin.fields@propublica.org>; 'Charles.Ornstein@propublica.org' <Charles.Ornstein@propublica.org>; 'eric.umansky@propublica.org' <eric.umansky@propublica.org>; 'scott.klein@propublica.org' <scott.klein@propublica.org>

Subject: Behind-the-Scenes: Testing the fitness of the Manhattan D.A. candidates, with EVIDENCE -- public corruption & the grand jury responsibilities of the D.A.'s office

TO: Pro Publica

Below, with the above attached, is the latest in the explosive story I furnished you last year – now impacting on New York City’s most important electoral races. If, because of your conflicts of interest, you will not investigate and report it, at least recognize a civic duty and moral obligation to pass it on to the multitude of freelance and other journalists you know, looking for something SIGNIFICANT.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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Behind-the-Scenes: Testing the fitness of the Manhattan D.A. candidates, with EVIDENCE -- public corruption & the grand jury responsibilities of the D.A.s office

Yesterday, the eight Democratic Manhattan D.A. candidates – and the Republican D.A. candidate – were sent the below e-mail entitled “**So, you want to be Manhattan D.A., here's the info & EVIDENCE in support of your whistle-blowing, NOW -- & your duty, IF elected, to present same to a Manhattan grand jury**”. It was also sent to five of candidate Bragg’s endorsers: The New York Times, Elizabeth Holtzman, Zephyr Teachout, Preet Bharara, and Jennifer Rodgers – as it details, with open-and-shut, prima facie EVIDENCE, his public corruption -- & that of candidate Quart.

What do they each have to say about it – and how, specifically, and in the context of the e-mail’s above two attachments, will the candidates be handling the public corruption duties of the D.A.’s office and its grand jury responsibilities.

I am available to answer questions – and to assist you in providing voters with information critical to their exercising an intelligent vote.

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 12:06 PM

To: 'Press@TahanieForDA.com' <Press@TahanieForDA.com>; 'info@dianaforda.com' <info@dianaforda.com>; 'press@dianaforda.com' <press@dianaforda.com>; 'info@votelucylang.com' <info@votelucylang.com>; 'info@elizaorlins.com' <info@elizaorlins.com>; 'info@TaliForDA.com' <info@TaliForDA.com>; 'ebeckerman@stuloeser.com' <ebeckerman@stuloeser.com>

Cc: 'info@alvinbragg.com' <info@alvinbragg.com>; 'dand@danquart.com' <dand@danquart.com>; 'thomas@kenniff4da.com' <thomas@kenniff4da.com>; 'editorial@nytimes.com' <editorial@nytimes.com>; 'metro@nytimes.com' <metro@nytimes.com>; 'tips@nytimes.com' <tips@nytimes.com>; 'nytnews@nytimes.com' <nytnews@nytimes.com>; 'ginia.bellafante@nytimes.com' <ginia.bellafante@nytimes.com>; 'michael.gold@nytimes.com'

<michael.gold@nytimes.com>; 'jemcki@nytimes.com' <jemcki@nytimes.com>;
'luis.ferre@nytimes.com' <luis.ferre@nytimes.com>; 'Katie.glueck@nytimes.com'
<Katie.glueck@nytimes.com>; 'emma.fitzsimmons@nytimes.com' <emma.fitzsimmons@nytimes.com>;
'jeff.mays@nytimes.com' <jeff.mays@nytimes.com>; 'dana.rubinstein@nytimes.com'
<dana.rubinstein@nytimes.com>; 'brian.rosenthal@nytimes.com' <brian.rosenthal@nytimes.com>;
'g.russonello@gmail.com' <g.russonello@gmail.com>; 'eholtzman@herrick.com'
<eholtzman@herrick.com>; 'zteachout@law.fordham.edu' <zteachout@law.fordham.edu>;
'jrodgers@law.columbia.edu' <jrodgers@law.columbia.edu>

Subject: So, you want to be Manhattan D.A., here's the info & EVIDENCE in support of your whistle-blowing, NOW -- & your duty, IF elected, to present same to a Manhattan grand jury

TO: Would-Be Manhattan District Attorneys Aboushi, Crotty, Florence, Lang, Orlins, and Weinstein

Five days ago, I sent you the below June 9th e-mail entitled “**To the whistle-blower belongs the prize: Info to help you win your Democratic primary race for Manhattan D.A. -- & knock out Alvin Bragg & his endorsements by the NYT & such others as Liz Holtzman, Zephyr Teachout, & Preet Bharara. Also, Dan Quart**” – furnishing it to Candidate Crotty by facebook.

Shortly thereafter, I received a call from one of your campaigns – and in the lengthy phone conversation that followed provided the info and substantiating EVIDENCE, which I showed was accessible from CJA’s website, www.judgewatch.org, via its prominent [ELECTIONS 2021](#) center link, containing entries for Would-Be Manhattan D.A.s Bragg and Quart. I had not yet created a dedicated webpage for the Manhattan D.A. race, but stated I would be doing so – and that I would post a narrative of EVIDENCE substantiating my June 9th e-mail, including as to the Bragg endorsers. This, I have now done, placing the substantiating narrative and EVIDENCE on CJA’s webpage for this e-mail. The direct link is: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2021/june-14-2021-email.htm>.

So that Messrs. Bragg and Quart may have the opportunity to deny or dispute ANY aspect of [the mountain of open-and-shut, prima facie EVIDENCE against them, posted on that webpage](#) – including the summarizing above-attached June 9, 2020 grand jury/public corruption complaint that Manhattan D.A. Vance has been “sitting on” – I am cc’ing them on this e-mail. Do they contest that the posted EVIDENCE leaves no doubt that a Manhattan grand jury would indict them – and a Manhattan trial jury convict them?

No candidate may be deemed fit to serve as Manhattan D.A. – or to occupy ANY office of public trust – who does not, based on the [posted EVIDENCE](#), whistle-blow loudly and NOW – with an unequivocal pledge to Manhattan voters that, if elected, he/she will present the [June 9, 2020 grand jury/public corruption complaint](#) to a Manhattan grand jury – and obtain and release responsive answers to the above-attached [July 29, 2020 FOIL/information request](#) to which D.A. Vance has not responded. Will Messrs. Bragg and Quart do that? How about the rest of you?

To enable Republican Manhattan D.A. candidate Thomas Kenniff to also demonstrate his fitness, by his response, I am cc’ing him on this e-mail, as well.

As for Bragg endorsers [The New York Times](#), Liz Holtzman, Zephyr Teachout, Preet Bharara, and Jennifer Rodgers, about whom the accompanying webpage furnishes an EVIDENTIARY narrative of their prior knowledge of the material facts and their cover-up and fraudulent conduct with respect thereto, I am also cc’ing them so that they may respond, including by retracting their endorsements.

In addition to The New York Times, I will separately forward this e-mail to other press, including the panoply of New York City's other "independent", "trustworthy", "local journalism" -- the "nonprofits", among them. These will be accessible *via* a link on CJA's menu webpage for the Manhattan D.A. race: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2021/menu-manhatta-da-race.htm>.

Needless to say, ALL the candidates, by reason of their candidacies, can command press coverage, without having to pay for it. Likewise, most of the endorsers. And, of course, The New York Times is its own press.

Finally, since D.A. candidate Crotty is apparently refusing to furnish me with an e-mail, I will -- as I did with the below June 9th e-mail -- paste it onto the chain of my messages to her, on her facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Lizcrotty2021>. Also, since Bragg endorser Preet Bharara apparently posts no e-mail address for himself, I request that recipients of this e-mail forward it on to him, for response.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 12:29 PM
To: 'Press@TahanieForDA.com' <Press@TahanieForDA.com>; 'info@dianaforda.com' <info@dianaforda.com>; 'press@dianaforda.com' <press@dianaforda.com>; 'info@votelucylang.com' <info@votelucylang.com>; 'info@elizaorlins.com' <info@elizaorlins.com>; 'info@TaliForDA.com' <info@TaliForDA.com>

Subject: To the whistle-blower belongs the prize: Info to help you win your Democratic primary race for Manhattan D.A. -- & knock out Alvin Bragg & his endorsements by the NYT & such others as Liz Holtzman, Zephyr Teachout, & Preet Bharara. Also, Dan Quart

TO: Would-Be Manhattan District Attorneys Aboushi, Crotty, Florence, Lang, Orlins, and Weinstein

I have info to help you win your upcoming Democratic primary for Manhattan D.A. -- & knock out Alvin Bragg AND his endorsements by The New York Times and such others as Liz Holtzman, Zephyr Teachout, & Preet Bharara. Also, Dan Quart.

Please call me for details -- and the explosive substantiating EVIDENCE. To the whistle-blower belongs the prize -- and the gratitude of the People of Manhattan AND the State of New York!

As I have no e-mail address for Candidate Crotty, from whom I have received no response to my messages for same, *via* her facebook page, I will furnish this to her, *via* facebook.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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