

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 9:31 AM
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'joel.abrams+gee@theconversation.com'
Cc: 'beth.daley@theconversation.com'; 'bruce.wilson@theconversation.com';
'bryan.keogh@theconversation.com';
'martin.lamonica@theconversation.com';
'naomi.schalit@theconversation.com';
'emily.costello@theconversation.com'; 'us-editorial@theconversation.com';
'us-corrections@theconversation.com'; 'josh7759@colorado.edu';
'laustin@tru.ca'; 'mjpowers@uw.edu'; 'aperlman@uci.edu'
Subject: **OVERSIGHT REQUIRED -- Complaint vs US Conversation's "Executive Leadership" & Other Editors for Flagrant Violation of The Conversation's Editorial Policies**
Attachments: [cja-2-18-25-ltr-to-greene-carr.pdf](#)

TO: **THE CONVERSATION**
Lisa Watts/CEO – The Conversation Media Group
Damien Thompson/COO – The Conversation International
Alpa Pandya/Executive Assistant-Board Liaison -- The Conversation-US
E. Gordon Gee/Board of Trustees Member – The Conversation-US

I herewith file a complaint against your US Conversation [“Executive Leadership” and other editors](#) for flagrant violation of The Conversation’s Editorial Policies by their willful and deliberate failure to respond, at all, to my below fully-documented May 26th complaint entitled “Your commissioned academic experts have NOT responded to primary-source, documentary evidence requiring corrections, revisions, and further scholarship with respect to their articles you have published”, with its above attachment, whose status I inquired about two weeks ago by a June 9th e-mail, also below, to which they also did not respond, at all. How do you explain this other than as a manifestation of their undisclosed conflicts of interest, to which they are subverting their duties. This includes conflicts pertaining to the [Institute for Nonprofit News, to which The Conversation is a member](#) and whose [“Membership Standards”](#) they are also violating, flagrantly.

I request that this e-mail be forwarded to Conversation Founder Andrew Jaspan, to former Conversation US Board of Trustees Chair Joseph Rosenbloom, and to all 15 current US Board members. Of the 15, only one, E. Gordon Gee, posts an e-mail contact, to which I am sending this e-mail with a request that he ensure its forwarding to the other 14.

Meantime, be advised that I have reason to believe that complained-against Associate Professor Josh Shepperd is writing a false updating of the “official history of public broadcasting” with his collaborator, Associate Professor Allison Perlman – and the facts pertaining thereto are reflected by my [June 12th e-mail](#) to her, to which he was cc’d. I have received NO response from either of them, just as, likewise, NO

response from either of them to any of my prior e-mails. This includes my [May 16th e-mail to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting](#) about their behavior “[in]consistent with honest scholarship”, to which they were both cc’d – and which my below May 26th complaint to [The Conversation](#) furnished.

I look forward to “conversation” with you about the foregoing. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Thank you.

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

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

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 3:34 PM

To: 'beth.daley@theconversation.com' <beth.daley@theconversation.com>;
'bruce.wilson@theconversation.com' <bruce.wilson@theconversation.com>;
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Cc: 'josh7759@colorado.edu' <josh7759@colorado.edu>; 'laustin@tru.ca' <laustin@tru.ca>;
'mjpowers@uw.edu' <mjpowers@uw.edu>

Subject: STATUS? -- Your commissioned academic experts have NOT responded to primary-source, documentary evidence requiring corrections, revisions, and further scholarship with respect to their articles you have published

TO: [THE CONVERSATION](#)

ATT: Executive Editor & General Manager Beth Daley
Chief University & Foundation Relations Officer Bruce G. Wilson, Jr.
Managing Editor Bryan Keogh
Director of Editorial Projects & Newsletters Martin LaMonica
Senior Editor/Politics-Democracy Naomi Schalit
Director of Collaborations/Local News Emily Costello

It is now two weeks since I sent the below and I have received no acknowledgment or response from you. Likewise, nothing from your commissioned scholars. Is this customary? Please advise.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 10:56 AM

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corrections@theconversation.com' <us-corrections@theconversation.com>

Cc: 'josh7759@colorado.edu' <josh7759@colorado.edu>; 'laustin@tru.ca' <laustin@tru.ca>;
'mjpowers@uw.edu' <mjpowers@uw.edu>

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RE: [“Trump and many GOP lawmakers want to end all funding for NPR and PBS – unraveling a US public media system that took a century to build”](#)
(May 2, 2025 [Conversation](#) article by Associate Professor Josh Shepperd)
[“Trump targets NPR and PBS as public and nonprofit media account for a growing share of local news coverage”](#)
(May 6, 2025 [Conversation](#) article by Professor Matthew Powers)
[“The attack on public broadcasting is part of a growing threat to press freedom and democracy”](#)
(May 8, 2025 [Conversation](#) article by Assistant Professor Lorry-Ann Austin)

I am director and co-founder of the New York-based nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#), with more than 30 years of interaction with New York and national media, including NPR, PBS, and other nonprofit media – and with academia. This is reflected by my above-attached February 18th letter to House DOGE Subcommittee Chair Marjorie Taylor Greene and FCC Chair Brendan Carr, which I sent to Professors Shepperd, Austin, and Powers expressly to advance their scholarship and, with respect to Professor Austin, expressly so that she could also correct her article.

My initial e-mails to them were:

- **my May 5, 2025 e-mail to Associate Professor Shepperd** --
"Your update of 'the official history of public broadcasting...for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and Current': NPR & PBS public editors & CPB's Inspector General"
- **my May 11, 2025 e-mail to Assistant Professor Austin** -- (to which Associate Professor Shepperd was cc'd)
"CORRECTION REQUIRED: Your May 8, 2025 article in The Conversation: 'The attack on public broadcasting is part of a growing threat to press freedom and democracy'"
- **my May 14, 2025 e-mail to Professor Powers** --
"Your May 6th article 'Trump targets NPR and PBS as public and nonprofit media account for a growing share of local news coverage' (The Conversation), published by the Albany Times Union".

I received no responses. Likewise, I received no responses to my subsequent correspondence to them:

- **my May 14, 2025 e-mail to Associate Professor Shepperd** –
"STATUS? Your update of 'the official history of public broadcasting...for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and Current': NPR & PBS public editors & CPB's Inspector General"
- **my May 16, 2025 e-mail to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting** – (to which Associate Professor Shepperd was cc'd)
"STATUS? -- CPB's Stewardship of Taxpayer Monies -- Halting Funding to Poynter Institute, NPR, PBS, & NY's Local "Public Media", & Firing the CPB Inspector General - - All Mandated by CJA's February 18, 2025 Letter"
- **my May 20, 2025 e-mail to Assistant Professor Austin** – (to which Associate Professor Shepperd was cc'd)
"STATUS? CORRECTION REQUIRED: Your May 8, 2025 article in The Conversation:

'The attack on public broadcasting is part of a growing threat to press freedom and democracy'"

- **my May 20, 2025 e-mail to Professor Powers** –
"GENTLE REMINDER: Your May 6th article 'Trump targets NPR and PBS as public and nonprofit media account for a growing share of local news coverage' (The Conversation), published by the Albany Times Union".

Is this acceptable to The Conversation? What does it say about the integrity of their scholarship that they have not responded? What do they deny or dispute – and on what evidence? Certainly, their behavior corroborates what my [February 18th letter](#) had to say on the subject of press scholarship (at p. 8):

“...I have spent over two decades searching for ‘honest press scholarship’ – and have found none. ...

This nation’s universities, with their centers for media studies and journalism schools – all [tax exempt](#) and benefitting from federal grants predicated on their supposed unbiased, fact-based research...are, in fact, organs of propaganda about the media, including in promoting taxpayer supported journalism and tax-exempt non-profit journalism to which philanthropies and members of the public can make tax-free contributions. ...” (hyperlink in the original).

I am cc’ing Professors Shepperd, Powers, and Austin on this e-mail to accelerate their responses and – assisted by your journalists – the corrections, revisions, and further reporting mandated by the primary-source, documentary evidence furnished by my February 18th letter and e-mails as to the “*knowingly* false, corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism” of NPR, PBS, and other nonprofit media, identical to that of for profit media, torpedoing our democracy.

I look forward to “conversation” with respect to the foregoing – and to appropriate action consistent with The Conversation’s exemplary [editorial guidelines](#). CJA’s menu webpage for the February 18th letter and its odyssey to date, as to which there has been NO press reporting nor comment by experts, is [here](#).

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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