

From: elena@judgewatch.org
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 9:34 AM
To: 'matthew.petti@reason.com'; 'joe.lancaster@reason.com'; 'jsullum@reason.com'; 'tips@reason.com'; 'react@reason.com'
Subject: Your March 16th articles -- & the battle for fact-based, truthful journalism, being fought by a major federal lawsuit
Attachments: [no18-1-oct29-2025-verified-amended-complaint-signed-by-zerman.pdf](#)

TO: [REASON MAGAZINE](#)
[Assistant Editor Matthew Petti](#)
[Assistant Editor Joe Lancaster](#)
[Senior Editor Jacob Sullum](#)

RE: Your March 16th articles "[Trump Wants To Cover Up Bad News About the Iran War](#)" (Petti); "[FCC Chair Threatens Media Outlets That Don't Report Good Iran War News](#)" (Lancaster); and "[Brendan Carr Says He Can Police TV Journalism Because Broadcast Licenses Are 'Free'](#)" (Sullum).

The battle for fact-based, truthful journalism is being fought by a major federal lawsuit against the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and 32 other press defendants, including broadcast news outlets subject to FCC regulation, seeking judicial recognition of causes of action for "journalistic fraud" and "institutional reckless disregard for truth" – proposed by scholars as viable under the First Amendment more than 20 years ago and then buried by them and other scholars, with resulting and accelerating democracy-destroying consequences.

The federal lawsuit, brought "*on behalf of the People of the State of New York & the Public Interest*" by the nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#), focuses on the 2025 press-rigged electoral win of Zohran Mamdani as New York City mayor. Above-attached and here-linked is the [October 29, 2025 verified amended complaint](#), furnishing all the particulars, with hyperlinks to the open-and-shut, *prima facie* evidence. This includes CJA's [March 14, 2025 e-mail to Mamdani](#) entitled "ELECTIONS ARE A TIME OF ACCOUNTABILITY...", then supplemented by CJA's [March 17th e-mail to him](#), both sent to him again when he was cc'd on CJA's [March 18th](#) and [March 20th](#) e-mails to the press. He responded to none of them. Nor did the press, which also did not respond to CJA's subsequent e-mails, such as CJA's [July 11th e-mail](#), [July 13th e-mail](#), [August 9th e-mail](#), and [September 18th e-mail](#) to the NYT, thereafter furnished by CJA to other press.

Lawyers and legal scholars on whom you rely for expert opinion should be able to confirm for you what will be obvious from your examination of the verified amended complaint, namely, that there is NO defense to it, factually or legally – and that the SOLE issue will be the magnitude of compensatory, presumed, and punitive damages, a jury determination that will reasonably be many billions of dollars. The district court's unprecedented handling of the case – as reflected by CJA's [December 19th affidavit](#) and [February 23rd letter to the judge](#) and his [March 2nd so-ordered annotation](#) – reinforces this.

Will you report on the lawsuit – or forward this e-mail to journalists who will?

I am available to answer your questions – and invite you to call me, no matter how early or late.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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