



CHARLES D. LAVINE
Assemblyman 13th District

CHAIR
Election Law Committee

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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August 6, 2019

Via Email

JCOPE
Monica Stamm
Martin Levine

Re: Kat Sullivan

Dear Ms. Stamm and Mr. Levine;

I write to express my fear that JCOPE ventures too far afield in its investigation of Kat Sullivan.

A victim of rape, JCOPE seems to have come to the belief that she is a lobbyist because she paid to speak out in support of the Child Victims Act by paying for coverage on a revolving billboard and for a banner towed by a plane over the Capitol.

This is not the kind of investigative action I intended to be pursued when I voted for the bill that was enacted into law establishing JCOPE.

It is entirely possible that my intent may matter considerably to my legislative colleagues. For five years, I served as chair of the Assembly Ethics Committee and as co-chair of the New York State Legislative Ethics Commission. I was chair of the bipartisan taskforce that created a new Speaker's Policy on Sexual Harassment, Retaliation and Discrimination following the Vito Lopez crisis. That policy is a national model. While I am no longer privileged to serve as Ethics chair, I remain a member of the committee. My Op-Ed entitled "After Skelos and Silver, How to Save Albany" appeared in the New York Times on December 11, 2015.

As co-chair of the NYSLEC, I relied on JCOPE's extensive findings when it imposed a fine of \$330,000.00 on Lopez for his misconduct. Prior to that time, the maximum fine imposed on any legislator was \$10,000.00. That sent a strong and persuasive message.

JCOPE's message, however, in pursuing Ms. Sullivan sends the opposite message and you should know that it gives me great displeasure. I am relatively certain that many of my fellow legislators will share my concern.

Thank you for your consideration respecting this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Lavine".

Charles D. Lavine
Member of Assembly

Cc: JCOPE Commissioners
Frank Robinson, TimesUnion
Chris Bragg, TimesUnion
Vivian Wang, NY Times