



OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT

OCG, PO Box 8683
Warwick, RI 02888
February/March 2001
Volume 9, Number 1

N E W S L E T T E R

State Officials Sanctioned for Contempt of Court Traffic Court Records Reveal Fraud Indicators

By Beverly Clay

Two state officials have been sanctioned for contempt of court as a result of their more than two year delay in allowing access to public records dealing with finances of the state's troubled traffic court.

The state had contracted with Municipal Collections Agency (MCA) to collect unpaid traffic fines from 60,000 motorists. Many of these motorists claimed they had paid their fines and had proof of payment. In December, 1998, Lee Blais, a Certified Fraud Examiner and OCG Board member, asked to review the records of those motorists claiming to have paid their fines.

After the state refused access to these records, Blais initiated a suit in Superior Court where Judge Stephen Fortunato ordered the state to produce the requested records. Later, Superior Court Judge Michael Silverstein found the state in contempt for redacting too much information from the records produced and not producing all of the records.

The state's defendants in the suit, Director of Administration Robert Carl and State Controller Lawrence Franklin, were found in contempt of the Superior Court

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION COURT

Municipal Collection Agency, Ltd.
P.O. Box 84
Providence, RI 02901
Telephone # (401) 521-2275
Toll Free # 1 (888) 294-3101

Summons Number: 9550303734
Violation Date: 11/26/95
Hearing Date: 7/22/96
License Number: [REDACTED]

Due Date: 10/31/98
Original Amount: \$1017.00
Total Amount Due: \$900.00

The Municipal Collection Agency, Ltd. (MCA), a Rhode Island Corporation, has been contracted by the State of Rhode Island to collect all past-due funds regarding summonses made payable to the Administrative Adjudication Court.

If you do not pay the total amount by the due date, we will proceed in the manner dictated by Law to collect this debt.

Use the enclosed envelope and return the bottom portion of this statement with a certified check or money order made payable to MCA. Do not send cash.

Summons Number: 9550303734
License Number: [REDACTED] Total Amount Due: \$900.00

RI motorists. Did you receive a letter like this demanding payment of a fine you have already paid? Write OCG, PO Box 8683, Warwick, RI 02888 with your story.

Order on September 23, 1999. However, they were given an opportunity to remove the contempt citation by complying with the original court order and producing the records "on or before October 1, 1999." On January 10, 2001, Judge Silverstein found that the defendants had not released the remaining records. Only in the midst of further contempt proceedings did the state give Blais hundreds more of the records.

Judge Silverstein ordered the state to pay Blais' attorney fees.

Blais was eventually given more than 700 records of double-billed motorists. These records resulted from the Municipal Collections Agency sending demand letters to 40,000 motorists to pay their fines. Some of these date back to 1989. Motorists and their attorneys wrote angry letters enclosing proof of having paid their fines. How many other motorists no longer have those records? And there are another 20,000 records of unpaid fines by motorists who had not, at the time of Blais request, received demand letters from the collection agency. The amount of double billed motorists and the total of fines involved could be substantial.

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Revoke Judge Lallo's Pension

Declare that the Public's Constitutional Rights Have Been Violated

By William H. Clay

In February, 1998, shortly after the Providence Journal exposé reporting on the corruption, patronage, and incompetence of the Rhode Island Traffic Court, OCG and Attorney Arlene Violet filed a complaint against six Traffic Court Judges, including Judge John Lallo, with the Commission on Judicial Tenure & Discipline. Although the Commission cleared four of the judges of any and all charges and later gave Chief Judge Pallozzi a private reprimand, they did not issue a ruling on Judge Lallo.

Approximately two and a half years later, Judge Lallo pled guilty to a federal felony charge of perjury related to his bankruptcy. Immediately after Judge Lallo pled guilty, OCG wrote to the Commission's Chair, Judge Alice Gibney, and requested that the Commission conduct a public hearing to determine whether or not Judge Lallo had performed dishonorable service, and if he had, OCG asked that the Commission recommend that his approximately \$100,000 a year pension be revoked.

Because the Rhode Island Supreme

Court had previously ruled that citizens have no standing in Rhode Island Courts to challenge the Commission's recommendation regarding sanctions of a judge, OCG's letter to Judge Gibney advised that an important part of OCG's mission is to enhance government accountability to the citizenry and accordingly, OCG would vigorously assert its First Amendment right to inform the public about the Commission's action or inaction in this matter.

Here is what appears to have happened. Rather than conduct an open proceeding to address the proper discipline to be imposed upon Judge Lallo, the Commission conducted a secret proceeding. While OCG does not have the hearing transcript, it appears that the Commission, in exchange for certain admissions, agreed to close the doors to the public, so that Judge Lallo could testify, but would not have to feel any public

shame or embarrassment for his misconduct. In addition, by closing the doors to the public, the Commission avoided public criticism because Rhode Islanders would never know that the Commission did not seriously consider OCG's request that Judge Lallo's pension be revoked.

All that the Commission apparently did was hear Judge Lallo's mitigating evidence. In other words the entire hearing consisted of Judge Lallo's excuses and explanations for his misconduct. After this closed meeting, the Commission rejected pension revocation and slapped Lallo on the wrist with a \$28,000 fine based upon the number of days that the Judge was gambling at Foxwoods instead of working.

On December 2, 2000, after 30 months of silence from the Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline, OCG first learned that the Commission had acted from a Provi-

dence Journal report on Judge Lallo's sentencing in Federal Court. The Journal reported that at Judge Lallo's sentencing for the federal felony regarding his bankruptcy perjury, the prosecutor had mentioned to United States District Court Judge Lisi that the Commission had made its disciplinary recommendations regarding Judge Lallo.

The OCG Board met and authorized Attorney Robert Senville to contact the RI Supreme Court to obtain the record of the Commission proceedings. When Attorney Senville attempted to obtain the record, the Court Administrator provided him with everything but the transcript of the hearing regarding Judge Lallo, telling Senville that the Commission had filed that document under seal. OCG then wrote to Chief Justice Weisberger requesting a copy of the transcript of the hearing involving Judge Lallo.

As a result of this request, the Chief Justice convened a conference with the attorneys for OCG, Judge Lallo and the Commission. After discussing this matter with all counsel, the Chief Justice entered an order

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**You can become a member of OCG
See back page for details**

New OCG Board Members

At the OCG Annual meeting, October 22, 2000, four new Directors were elected to the Board. Those elected were:

Rod Driver—married to Carole Driver for 45 years with three grown children, is a retired University of Rhode Island Mathematics Professor. He holds an M.S. in electrical Engineering and a PhD in mathematics and is the author of three mathematics books and twenty four research papers. He is a former RI State Representative, and was a delegate to the 1986 RI Constitutional Convention. He served as Executive Director of GAP (Government Accountability Project) in 1995. Rod chairs the OCG Legislative Committee, serves on the OCG Issues Committee and has testified on behalf of OCG at the state house.

June Spink—married to Stan Spink, with 4 children and 2 stepchildren, is the coordinator of Pharmacy Experiential Programs in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at URI. She received her BS in Pharmacy from URI in 1976. A former board member of OCG, June has been active politically, starting as a founding member of United We Stand America-RI and working on the Perot 1992 Presidential Campaign. She incorporated the RI Reform Party State Committee in 1996 and served as Chair of the RI Reform Party in 1998 and New England Regional Rep to RPUSA since January of 1999.



Stephanie Rivera—and her husband Noel joined OCG in 1998, after many years of working for reform, first within the South Kingstown police department, and later within the state police. They received an award from Lodge 25 for their assistance in gaining new leadership in the state police, which eventually led to national certification of the state police. Since joining, Stephanie has written articles on OCG state government and judicial system issues, several of which were published in *The Providence Journal*. She holds a bachelor's degree from Boston University and an M.A. from the University of Rhode Island. Before going into the restaurant business with her husband, she taught senior high English in the Massachusetts public schools. Currently serving on the OCG newsletter committee, she has recently been appointed to chair the OCG judicial reform committee.



Tom West—married to Sharon West, with three children, has been a resident of Riverside for 40 years. He joined OCG in January 2000 and has been active ever since on the membership committee. He has written letters to the editor and op-eds to *The Providence Journal*. Tom is self-employed and an ex-president of the Narragansett Terrace Realty Association, and is Secretary of the Riverside Revitalization Partnership, a group of area residents dedicated to the betterment of Riverside.



Contempt, from page 1

tial. It was also revealed that the auditors, hired by the state to audit the traffic court in 1998, never saw most of these records.

These records are important in that they show payments of fines in significant numbers were not recorded into the state's computers. This is a significant red flag for fraud, one that officials have steadfastly refused to acknowledge despite it waving in their faces for more than two years.

In a *Providence Journal* article January 19, 2001, the Governor's Executive Counsel, Joseph Larisa, stated that the payment of these fines had been "written down," but hadn't been logged into the computer system used by the collection agency. Also, he asserted "the traffic court audit looked for fraud but did not find any." (In point of fact, KPMG did not do a certified fraud examination as had been requested by OCG and some legislators, but the limited audit they were allowed to do alerted them to the possibility of fraud.) As a result, Blais and OCG, on January 22, made a public records request for all documentation to support these claims.

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Robert Senville Steps down from OCG Board

An outpouring of appreciation went to Attorney Robert Senville at the OCG annual meeting last October, when he stepped down from the Board of Directors. For six years, Rob has volunteered his services to the OCG Board, providing his legal services and representing OCG in several lawsuits often leading to cutting edge appellate arguments before the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Most recently, Rob appeared before the Supreme Court at the Judge Lallo disciplinary hearing (*see story on page 1*). Rob has prepared and argued the Constitutional Convention Lawsuit, which he is now appealing at the Supreme Court level for plaintiffs Robert Arruda, Sandy Mellen and Senator Marc Cote whose standing was denied in Superior Court. He also prepared an amicus brief representing OCG at a hearing before the Supreme Court on the Separation of Powers Advisory Opinion sought by the governor's office. He is constantly doing background work on various issues to advise the OCG board.

Rob is honest, ethical and has immense integrity, depth of character and devotion to the cause of good government. His career specialty is defending the civil rights of indigent persons and persons with disabilities. Rob became an attorney with the enthusiasm of a rookie policeman, expecting to make a difference. He did not seek the material rewards of corporate or government

law, ambulance chasing or well-healed clients wanting to win big, or criminals wanting to somehow beat the rap. Instead, Rob has continued to believe deeply in the judicial system, even as his own first-hand experience seeing judicial scandal, political intrigue and favoritism have given him reason for cynicism.

Rob, driven by his compassion, took up the cause of an indigent and totally disabled person whose rights had been trampled by the judicial system. After several years of litigation, he prepared and argued the appeal before the RI Supreme Court. However, on March 22, 2000, the Court claimed judicial immunity for convicted Superior Court Judge Almeida and refused to award Rob's bedridden client monies that were stolen from him by Judge Almeida and the client's former attorney. The Supreme Court would not make Rob's client whole again, even after Almeida served prison time for the offense and the attorney involved had been disbarred.

Though Rob is no longer on the OCG Board, he continues to provide us with legal services and advice. There is not enough we can say or do to express our appreciation for Rob Senville's years of dedication to promoting honest, responsible and responsive state government. We hope he will soon return to the board.

Stealing and Corruption are O.K.

By Janice F. Carlson

During the December meeting of the city of Providence's retirement board, the board was considering severing the pensions of Rosemary H. Glancy and Anthony E. Annarino, both convicted in the Plunder Dome scandal. The board vice chair, Betty Jackson, who is also vice president of the Laborers' Local 1033, one of the city employees' big unions, referring to Glancy and Annarino's long service said "...if a person worked for 30 years and earned a pension...for 25 of those years, their slate was clean. The other five decided to go the other way." She argued Glancy and Annarino had only been caught once and should not have the pensions they had earned taken away. She further said upon questioning, "Look at all the other ones who haven't got caught and are getting pensions." (This has to be one of the most irresponsible, revealing and outrageous statements ever made by a government employee. Does this begin to explain why government in RI is so costly?)

Our Supreme Court justices, apparently using the same logic as Ms. Jackson, recently chose to downplay the alleged tax evasions and labor racketeering of Arthur Coia while considering him for disbarment as recommended by their own disciplinary counsel David D. Curtin. Instead, at the urging of Congressman Patrick Kennedy and other Democrat Party big wigs, the justices decided to look at the "totality" of Coia's record. And in their infinite wisdom found his small infraction (a felony Coia pleaded guilty to), warranted only a two-year sus-

pension of his license to practice law. The sad part is that Arthur Coia is not a practicing attorney, nor does he seemingly have any plans to be one.

Why would the likes of U.S. Rep. Kennedy, former Gov. Bruce E. Sundlun, former Atty. Gen. Julius Michaelson, North Providence Mayor A. Ralph Mollis, South Kingstown's Police Chief Vincent Vespia and more go to bat to save his "trophy" RI Bar membership? Obviously, Mr. Coia has some heavily indebted friends.

The two million dollars Coia's Laborers' International union donated to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Kennedy's pet project, and other Democratic causes in the past two years as well as the advice Coia has been giving him since Mr. Kennedy went to Congress had to have influenced him. Kennedy says in his letter that "many of his (Coia's) travails can be traced to ...rivals and opponents." The fact that Coia cheated the taxpayers of Rhode Island had nothing to do with his rivals and opponents; it was a conscious decision to defraud. Kennedy ended his letter to the court with the line: "It is my wish that I be able to continue to work with Mr. Coia as a member in good standing of the Rhode Island Bar."

The justices on our Supreme Court either caved in to the unethical pandering of our state and community "leaders" and/or their own seeming adherence to the status quo of many Rhode Island's state and city employees philosophy: "Every one does it...he got caught, but he's a good guy."

The Harwood Connection

By Stephanie Rivera

On December 28, 2000, Patricia Harwood, wife of House Speaker John Harwood of Pawtucket, was formally appointed general magistrate of RI Superior Court. Her selection over thirty other candidates, whose names were withheld from the public, was made by Superior Court Presiding Justice Joseph F. Rodgers, his justification being that "her acceptance among all those who applied (was) a slam dunk." Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph Weisberger validated the selection, and in short order Mrs. Harwood was confirmed for the lifetime position, with a starting salary of over \$100,000 per year with full benefits and annual cost of living increases. For the 40 year old Mrs. Harwood and her family, this creates a financial package of something in the \$6-8 million range.

Whether Mrs. Harwood was selected on her merits or because of her relationship to the powerful House Speaker is debatable. The very fact that such dubious positions as magistrates are in existence, and that the competition for the extremely high salaries that accompany them is as secretive as the criteria for selection, is certainly a major concern to RI taxpayers. In Speaker Harwood's case, he avoided the legal definition of nepotism because he did not actually appoint his wife. Instead, he relied on members of the judiciary to provide him the access to such a profitable arrangement.

What is particularly disturbing is the way in which Justice Rodgers and Chief Justice Weisberger defended this appointment as being not political, but refused to provide evidence to prove otherwise. Why, they say, should Mrs. Harwood be disqualified from such a position just because her husband is House Speaker? Hardly an argument, in view of the incestuous nature of Rhode Island politics, past and present, given the fact the Mrs. Harwood, along with eight other applicants, signaled their availability for the position before it was even posted. In fact, it is worrisome that the Rhode Island Bar Association has not come forward to protest this appointment on that very basis. In a better world, where those in power place ethical considerations above all else, the answer to the question posed by the Justices would be that such an appointment is improper. Therefore, the Speaker and his wife, adhering to such a code of behavior, would have avoided the

negative perception by waiting for another day, when Mr. Harwood was no longer Speaker. But such discretion is too much to ask of those who feel political power is an entitlement to advance their personal interests.

And such is the case with Representative Edward S. Inman III, Speaker Harwood's long-time friend and ally in the House, with his precipitous ascendance to the interim post of Secretary of State at a salary of \$80,000. The fact that not one legislator raised a question concerning the "revolving door" statutes as they apply to Representative Inman, and that he exempted himself from the very legislation that he promoted as a House member is remarkable. With the additional appointment of the Speaker's law partner, to the Pawtucket magistrate's position recently vacated by Mrs. Harwood, it seemed that the Speaker knew no shame in contriving to surround himself with confederates. However, with the uproar over the Inman and McKinnon appointments coming on the heels of Mrs. Harwood's elevation to magistrate, Daniel McKinnon has withdrawn from the Pawtucket post which would have paid him over \$20,000 a year for a couple of evening's work. To his detriment, he did not withdraw gracefully, but took umbrage with the "good government groups" which were driving "qualified" people out of government. Mr. McKinnon is mistaken about that. It is these kinds of insider appointments that keep qualified people out of government.

Speaker Harwood and the majority of legislators who continue to support his leadership apparently have no speaking acquaintance with the word "ethics," the moral philosophy of what constitutes the greater good. For them such considerations are a waste of time. As one state representative recently remarked in conversation, "What's ethics? Ethics is when you think you are doing the right thing."

I'm sorry. I'm only accepting applications from my close family and friends for the high paying jobs...



graphic by Joe Rodriguez, Exeter/West Greenwich High School Senior

Harwood Anoints Inman

OCG Files Ethics Complaint

Rhode Islanders are seeing increased use of the "Harwood Credentials" to obtain public jobs, the latest being the easing of Harwood's personal friend and deputy speaker, Representative Edward Inman, into the vacant Secretary of State position. The speaker may not have anointed Inman with oil, but he certainly greased Inman's path through the Grand Committee election process.

The speaker was able to pull this off using his absolute power in the house, where there is a two to one vote advantage over the senate in the Grand Committee; and furthermore the house was electing one of their own. The representatives and senators voted unanimously for Inman, with the tiny Re-

publican caucus mute and falling in line. There were no other nominations and no one spoke against the speaker's choice.

The Reverend Marlowe Washington wrote an opinion piece,

published by the *Providence Journal*, requesting the speaker to select a woman or a minority to fill the vacancy. Harwood wanted his friend. No one looked for the best qualified. Whether or not Inman is the best qualified, the citizens of RI will not know. No others were considered.

Before the Grand Committee voted, House Majority Leader Martineau stood to assure those assembled that notwithstanding the state's revolving door statute and Ethics Commission regulations, their vote for Inman would be legal. He said the legislature's legal counsels, Richard Kearns and Edward Fogarty, as well as Attorney General Whitehouse had advised him.

Operation Clean Government's legal counselors maintained the ethics regulations do apply to Inman's accepting the office. The day following the Grand Committee vote, OCG filed an ethics complaint against him. OCG charged "State Representative Edward S. Inman III, accepted on Tuesday, January

9, 2001, an appointment by the Grand Committee of the General Assembly to the position of Secretary of State, a position which carries with it financial remuneration. Since he did not wait one year after leaving the General Assembly to accept this position and since he was appointed by the body of which he is a member, Operation Clean Government charges herein that his acceptance of this position is in violation of Ethics Regulations 36-14-5006 and 5007 as quoted below from the Ethics Commission Manual, *Rhode Island Code of Ethics in Government and Regulations*."

Regulation 36-14-5006

Employment From Own Board

No elected or appointed official may accept any appointment or election by the body of which he or she is or was a member, to any position which carries with it any financial benefit or remuneration, until the expiration of one (1) year after termination of his or her membership in or on such body, unless the Ethics Commission shall give its approval for such appointment or election, and, further provided, that such approval shall not be granted unless the Ethics Commission is satisfied that denial of such employment or position would create a substantial hardship for the body, board, or municipality.

Regulation 36-14-5007

Prohibition on State Employment

No member of the General Assembly shall seek or accept state employment as an employee or consultant, not held at the time of the member's election, while serving in the General Assembly and for a period of one (1) year after leaving legislative office.

Representative Inman may very well be qualified to be Secretary of State, but OCG believes these ethics regulations were put in place to prohibit elected officials from using their office to propel themselves into state jobs.

Can Inman remain independent of his powerful benefactor? Can he maintain the public access that his predecessor established? He has already given up 60% of his statehouse office space to the Senate. His 14 member staff has been relocated to the state library and the public information center, where there is not adequate room to set up their offices. Secretary of State Langevin resisted any move by the legislature to take away his office space.

Power Run Amok—An Update

authority. Ultimately, the matter came to light, and Mr. Harwood was asked why he had proceeded to violate the Ethics Commission ruling that prohibits members of the General Assembly from representing clients before agencies over which they have power.

To all, but Mr. Harwood obviously, this is a no-brainer, as for the last eight years, the Speaker has had control over the DEM's environmental policy and budget. His first reaction was to do the "Harwood thing," which is to say that he saw no ethical dilemma and would not excuse himself from the case. However, shortly after, reason prevailed, especially when he learned about a story that was being prepared for publication by the *Journal*. Issuing a statement through his chief of staff that he had de-

ecided to step down because of the ethical implications that had arisen, he later that night stated in a telephone interview that "there's no question in my mind that I think I'm absolutely right." Nevertheless, he conceded, "perception is reality."

Mr. Harwood later went on to complain that he considered the Ethics Commission without any legal authority in the matter, and that such rulings and decisions should be made by the Supreme Court; which of course has done so nicely by him in other rulings, noticeably the one issued last year concerning separation of powers. In that landmark decision, Mr. Harwood emerged victorious when he was granted not only the right to create quasi-public agencies but to appoint members of the legislature to sit on them.

Evidently, Mr. Harwood has been encouraged by his successes in and out of court to continue to push the envelope of power afforded to him by his fellow legislators.

His overweening ambition to line his pockets at the expense of the public who ends up paying the price for his peccadilloes continues unabated. And to hear Mr. Harwood's side of it, he has been ill-used: "Why don't they knock me out of everything?" he whines. "Maybe I'll join the priesthood." One might almost call that sacrilege, but nevertheless, it is certainly on the right track. It is obvious that Mr. Harwood is straining at the leash of public oversight, and it is perhaps wise of him to vacate his office at the State House and practice the kind of law that will allow him, as he says, "to feed my family."

Laundering Taxpayer Money

By William H. Clay

The Resource Recovery Corporation, which operates the state's central landfill, has contracted with Providence Soils, a private company, to construct and operate a sludge-treatment plant at Fields Point. The plant would service municipalities as well as primary users, Resource Recovery and Narragansett Bay Commission.

The contract provides that Providence Soils receive a \$10 million low-interest loan. Resource Recovery intended that the loan would come from the RI Clean Water Finance Agency. However, Clean Water's enabling statute does not authorize it to finance private enterprise projects with taxpayer money. To overcome this slight impediment, Clean Water turned to the Economic Development Corporation, which is so authorized. EDC, in turn, agreed to finance the project by laundering its investment through its satellite the Industrial Facilities Corporation. What is going on here is a shell game with public monies.

These monetary shenanigans of the four quasi-public agencies came under scrutiny

of the House Finance Committee. At a hearing on January 3, 2001, committee members questioned the legitimacy of using taxpayer money to implement such a risky project. Previously there have been three failed attempts to construct and operate sludge-treatment facilities at the Fields Point site. The irony is that the Finance Committee can do little more than question. The loan is legal. The General Assembly created the quasi-publics and so empowered them.

There is some irony for you too, the reader, if you voted to approve Question 2 in the November election. The question was approved by a wide margin and it authorized the state to issue \$60 million in general obligation bonds to be paid off with interest by your taxpayer money. Money from the sale of these bonds will be turned over to the Clean Water Finance Agency to spend on a host of undefined projects.

There is even more irony for the taxpayers. Albeit the General Assembly must obtain the citizens' approval to incur state debt in excess of \$50,000, as in the case of Question #2, the Governor has no such ap-

proval restraint. The Almond Administration is constructing a new Traffic Court, a new Kent County Courthouse, added facilities at the Youth Training School, and numerous other projects. Almond funds these projects through the sale of "certificates of participation," a form of bonding without pledging the full faith and credit of the state. Payoff with interest depends on annual appropriations by the General Assembly which in effect is laundering taxpayer monies for the Governor's projects.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Program Chair—to help create and implement OCG forums

Publicity Chair—to be facile in areas related to publicity and promotion

Other Committees, listed below, need volunteers

Call Ron Galipeau, Volunteer Chairman at 944-6778

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scheduling the filing of memoranda and also ordered that this matter be heard on January 30, 2001, at the same time the Supreme Court would hear the merits of the Commission's recommendation to remove Judge Lallo from the bench and fine him \$28,000.

On January 30, 2001 Attorney Senville, presented arguments to support OCG's position that the transcript of the Commission proceeding involving Judge Lallo was a public document, and also that the hearing involving Judge Lallo should have been open to the public. His argument was based upon R.I. Gen. Laws § 8-16-5 and Rule 29 of the *Rules of the Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline*, which state that whenever the Commission shall make a determination recommending the removal of a member of the judiciary, the transcript and the findings, conclusions and recommen-

dation of the Commission shall be public documents.

Further, Attorney Senville argued that the public has a First Amendment right to attend judicial disciplinary hearings because the major purpose of the First Amendment is to protect public discussion of governmental affairs, and because the operation of courts and the judicial conduct of judges are matters of utmost public importance. OCG contends that once the Commission finds probable cause that a Judge has violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, further Commission secrecy violates both Rhode Island law and the United States Constitution. Attorneys for the Commission and Judge Lallo both argued that the public has no right to the transcript and had no right to have attended the Commission's disciplinary hearings regarding Judge Lallo.

The Court has issued no decision on any of the arguments heard January 30.

In light of the slap on the wrist, instead of recommending real discipline regarding Judge Lallo's dishonorable service, it is not surprising the Commission conducted hearings and developed the disciplinary recommendation in sessions where the public was excluded. However even OCG did not suspect that the Commission would seal the transcript of these proceedings, so the public would never know what happened.

The Rhode Island Supreme Court has already denied the public the right to comment on a Commission recommendation of judicial discipline in a Court proceeding. Now OCG will see what the Supreme Court's decision will say about the public's right to observe or even to obtain a copy of the transcript of Commission disciplinary hearings. OCG members should know that whatever the Commission and the Rhode Island Supreme Court may say, OCG will fight for the public's right to know.

Legislator Lists

For the most comprehensive list of state senators and representatives with their telephone numbers, addresses, occupations, years in office, and other information, visit our website at www.ocg.to. The list can be printed onto three 8 1/2 x 11 pages. To receive the list by mail, send a self addressed stamped envelope to OCG, PO Box 8683, Warwick RI 02888

WHO WE ARE...

OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT is a grassroots organization working to bring about positive changes in Rhode Island state government. We advocate the passage of legislation which will provide Honest, Responsible and Responsive state government. We file court suits and ethics complaints and alert the public to government wrongdoing via OCG newsletters, press releases, opinion pieces on editorial pages and appearances in the electronic media. Dues are \$12 for an individual membership and \$15 for a family membership. Donations of any amount are also welcome. As an all volunteer organization, there are no salaries or compensation other than the satisfaction that we are giving our best effort to make a positive difference in Rhode Island. Our costs include newsletters, mailings, court filing fees, office materials and supplies, publicity and public forums.

OCG MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I want to join other Rhode Island citizens and help to promote Honest, Responsible and Responsive State Government.

New member Renewal

My membership contribution to OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT is enclosed:

\$12 Individual \$15 Family (list all names to be included) \$25 \$50 \$100 \$____ Other

Name(s) _____ Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

Street _____ Email Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

OCG is a non-profit organization, however contributions are not tax deductible because our activities include lobbying.

Yes, I would like to volunteer some time or participate on one or more of the OCG committees. Please call me.

OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT • PO BOX 8683 • WARWICK, RI 02888

I heard about OCG from _____

**OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Tel 1-877-SWEEP-RI
(1-877-793-3774)
Website: <http://www.ocg.to>

OFFICERS:

Chair	Robert P. Arruda, Warwick
1st Vice Chair	Beverly M. Clay, West Greenwich
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EX OFFICIO: Bruce Lang, Newport

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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Judicial Reform	Stephanie Rivera, Richmond
Legislative	Rod Driver, Richmond
Litigation Support	Lee Blais, Pawtucket
Membership	Jan Girouard, Newport
Newsletter	William H. Clay, West Greenwich
Organization	William H. Clay, West Greenwich
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Ralph Greco, Warwick
Stephanie Rivera, Richmond
June Spink, North Kingstown
Tom West, Riverside

Two-year Directors:

Lee Blais, Pawtucket
Anthony Freitas, Providence
Donald Koehn, Providence
Sandy Mellen, Pawtucket
Ronald G. Santa, Middletown

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Sidney M. Green, Providence
John L. Gudavich, Jr., West Warwick
Joe Mellen, Pawtucket
Karen Rosenberg, Cranston

To promote HONEST, RESPONSIBLE and RESPONSIVE STATE GOVERNMENT in RHODE ISLAND