



*New York*  
**COMMON CAUSE**  
*Holding Power Accountable*

**Join Us as Mario Cuomo Presents First in Archibald Cox Lecture Series!**

By Megan Quattlebaum

We hope you'll join us on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm as former Governor Mario Cuomo presents the first in our Archibald Cox Memorial Lecture Series at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City.

**Please call 1-800-300-8707 for more information or to reserve your seat today as limited seating is available!**

The Archibald Cox Memorial lecture series honors the legacy of Archibald Cox, the special prosecutor who investigated the Watergate scandal and was fired by the Nixon White House in the 1973 "Saturday Night Massacre" for refusing to back down after Nixon failed to turn over documents. In his formal statement after being fired, Cox stated, "Whether we shall continue to be a government of laws and not of men is now for the Congress and, ultimately, the American people to decide."

Cox went on to sit on the Common Cause National Governing Board from 1976 to 2001, serving as its Chairman from 1980 to 1992 and as Chairman Emeritus until his death in 2004. The Archibald Cox memorial lecture series brings together activists, academics, public officials, members of the legal commu-



**Hon. Mario Cuomo**  
 Governor of New York (1983-95)

nity and the public at large to discuss the advancement and preservation of the "government of laws" that Cox envisioned.

In the first lecture in the series, Mario Cuomo will deliver an address entitled, "E Pluribus Unum? - Toward a Stronger More United America Through Positive Values."

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**Common Cause Kicks Off The New Year With a Renewed Fight for Election Reform**

By Johanna Rodriguez

In the wake of the Florida debacle in the 2000 presidential election, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), aimed at improving the voting process by setting new standards for voting systems and providing funds for states to, among other things, purchase new voting machines. NYS has not yet implemented the federal law and is facing

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**THE ACTIVIST**  
 Winter 2005  
 Volume 8, Number 1

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Want up to the minute information about our activities? Visit our website and sign up for our CauseNet email action alerts!

# Letter From the Executive Director

By Rachel Leon

**2005** is upon us. Happy New Year! As you'll see reflected in this newsletter, CC/NY is busy researching, lobbying and organizing to make New York State more open and accountable. We hope you will enjoy the enclosed articles, get active in our efforts and join us and Governor Cuomo on February 10th in NYC in the fist of our Archibald Cox memorial lecture series.

Reforming Albany is our New Year's resolution, and one we intend to keep. Reform is a word that we have heard a lot in the last few months. The Governor has called for "bold" reform (although the Governor's past State of the State reform promises leave us with little confidence in his intentions) and Speaker Silver and Senator Bruno have both introduced packages of rules "reform." The Assembly passed its reforms, though the Senate paused under criticism and fierce opposition by the minority and will work in conference in the coming weeks to repair and re-pass its reform package.

This year, it will be our job to hold elected officials accountable to their promises. Common Cause/NY and



*Jeremy Creelan and The Brennan Center for Justice lead rally on rules reform in Albany along with Common Cause/NY and over 60 other groups. Rachel Leon address the crowd.*

other civic groups released a report in October outlining ten clear, practical steps that we believe lawmakers must take to reform Albany. These steps will set state government on the path to becoming more open, effective and democratic.

We invited every candidate for state office to pledge their support for our ten steps, and as a result over 124 candidates agreed to support some or all of our reform proposals in the coming year. We hope that members of the Legislature and the Governor will heed New Yorkers' calls and make 2005 a banner year for government reform. Our "report card" is intended to ensure that this year action on reforms is taken, and that voters have a reliable way to evaluate the quality and efficacy of enacted reforms.

We have a lot going on and a lot to do in the coming year, so we hope you'll get active in our programs and campaigns in any way you can. YOU are Common Cause.

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## *Continued from Page 1*

looming deadlines for coming to a consensus on how we will vote for decades to come. Common Cause/NY has released updated research showing that voting machine vendors have spent over \$850,000 lobbying in New York State on voting issues since 2002. The voting machine vendors that have lobbied in our state include: Accupoll, Danaher Controls, Diebold Election Systems, Election Systems and Software, Liberty Election Systems, Sequoia Voting Systems, and Voting Machines Service Center.

This data only reflects lobbying on specific bills related to election reform. Vendors are not required to file reports on their lobbying for state contracts, so we don't know how much money is really being spent on lobbying. Joanna Erenberg, Director of Special Projects at Common Cause/NY, states that "Lobby reform remains a top property in 'Fixing Albany' if we are to have a system of openness and accountability."

To advance their case, voting machine vendors have hired a roster of powerful and well-connected lobbyists from both sides of the aisle. These lobbyists include Bill Powers, former Chairman of the NYS Republican Party and Jeff Buley, counsel to the New York State Republicans.

With these high-priced lobbyists attempting to influence the process, will regular New Yorkers get a fair hearing? "New York State lags behind the nation in selecting machines and faces increasing deadlines to make a decision. Our concern is that in this high pressure situation, are lawmakers and the State Board of Elections listening to the lobbyists for the voting machine vendors rather than regular New Yorkers as we consider fundamental changes to how we vote in New York State?" stated Rachel Leon, Executive Director of Common Cause/NY.

This research is part of the larger Common Cause/NY effort to reform elections in New York State. This year, Common Cause/NY will be holding public forums across the state to educate our members and the general public about the need for comprehensive election reform and involve them in an aggressive campaign for reform. One of the first steps in this process will be to demand that the Senate and the Assembly re-convene the Help America Vote Act conference committee that was making progress toward resolving the critical issues facing our state before it broke down last year in another sad example of Albany's dysfunction. If you'd like to be involved in the struggle for positive election reform, please call Joanna Erenberg at 1-800-300-8707.

## 2004 I Love An Ethical NY Event A Success!

By Joanna Erenberg

The annual I Love an Ethical New York held on Thursday, October 14, 2004 at the Sky Club in Manhattan was a resounding success. Hundreds of members and supporters joined Common Cause/NY and honored Andrew Heiskell in memoriam, Phoebe Powell Bender, and Rock the Vote's New York Street Team, while celebrating Three Decades of Holding Power Accountable. Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman served as Benefit Chairs for the evening and Calvin Trillin, deadline poet for The Nation and reknown humorist and journalist, served as Master of Ceremonies at the celebration. The event was a fabulous celebration of our three decades of struggle and victories for good government from our first major state victory, passage of the freedom of information laws in 1974.

The event included a cocktail reception, silent auction and awards ceremony, with stunning views of the New York City skyline from the top of the Met Life Building. We would like to thank all of our Common Cause members, Hosts, Sponsors, Co-Chairs, and Benefit Chairs who made this event possible. We would also like to thank all of those who generously donated to our silent auction: Affinia Hotels, American Museum of Natural History, Philip Baloun Events & Flowers, Belle Fleure, Bloomingdales, Ric Burns, Chamber Music Society, Children's Museum of Manhattan, Crowne Plaza, Lewis B.

Cullman, Matt Davies, Economist, Beth Hershenhart, Italian Culinary Institute, Friend's Lake Inn, William Kennedy, Paul Krugman, Lia Schorr Spa, Liz Claiborne, Maximus Spa, Metamorphosis Day Spa, Michael Fina, Bill Moyers, Myriad Restaurant Group, The New York Review of Books, The New York Times Co., Nobu, Powerhouse Books, The Sagamore, Jon Stewart & The Daily Show, Time Inc., Tribeca Grill, Gary Trudeau, Mike Wallace, and a very special thank you to Tiffany & Co. Stay tuned for information on our 2005 gala!



*Mrs. Marian Heiskell*

*Benefit Chair Lewis Cullman*

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## The Battle of the Giants in the Fight for Manhattan's West Side

By Megan Quattlebaum

Common Cause/NY has released new data showing that proponents and opponents of a new West Side stadium have spent \$11,494,246 lobbying in New York City and Albany in their quest to build or defeat this project. These same interests have given \$397,101 in campaign contributions in recent years.

The proposed NY Jets' Stadium over the Hudson Rail Yards has become the city-planning controversy of 2004, and some say the largest such debate since the Westway fight of the '70s and '80s. Last March, the Mayor and Governor announced that the city and state would contribute \$300 million each to help the Jets build a \$1.4 billion football stadium on Manhattan's West Side.

Common Cause/NY released this research as a part of its "Connect the Dots" series, which shows how money in politics impacts issues people care about. New Yorkers are now being inundated with a massive advertising and PR blitz both from those who want to build this stadium and those who oppose it. It's important that we know all of the facts about the stadium plan and those who are fighting this battle so that we can penetrate beyond sophisticated PR campaigns to decide what we want for our city and the West Side.

Since January, the Jets have spent a total of \$2,954,336 lobbying in New York City and in Albany. Others who support the stadium and West Side development, including NYC & Co., the city's tourism agency; NYC 2012, the city's Olympic committee; and a number of building and construction unions, have spent a total of \$170,213 lobbying on the state and city levels.

Madison Square Garden, which opposes the stadium, has spent

a total of \$2,686,915 lobbying on issues related to the West Side in New York City and in Albany in 2003 and 2004. Madison Square Garden's owner, Cablevision, has also spent 5,526,059 lobbying in New York City and Albany since January, 2004.

In addition to documenting the lobby and campaign spending in the stadium fight, Common Cause/NY released a "who's who" of lobbyists hired on this issue. These lobbyists range from former senators to influential hired guns with connections to past and present lawmakers.

"It would be easier to list who is not lobbying on this issue than to explain who is. Our concern is that regular New Yorkers will be left out in the cold, even though it is their tax dollars that will make or break this project in the end," stated Rachel Leon, Executive Director of CC/NY.

New Yorkers have good reason to be concerned about the fate of the stadium project. The city and state have committed to contribute \$300 million each to the development costs of the stadium, and it is not yet known how these contributions will be financed. Proponents of the stadium say it will bring in over \$70 million in tax revenue annually, but stadium detractors have argued that the \$70 million figure is inflated.

The report was released as both foes and fans increase their pressure on lawmakers for decisive action on whether or not to move forward with the West Side stadium plan.

# CONNECT THE DOTS: Money in Politics



## The Jets' Stadium and West Side Redevelopment: Football Match Up Leaves New Yorkers on the Bench



### The Game:

The proposed NY Jets' Stadium over the Hudson Rail Yards has become the city-planning controversy of 2004, and some say the largest such debate since the Westway fight of the '70s and '80s. Last March, the Mayor and Governor announced that the city and state would contribute \$300 million each to help the Jets build a \$1.4 billion football stadium on Manhattan's West Side. Proponents and opponents of a new West Side stadium have spent \$11,494,246 lobbying in New York City and Albany in their quest to build or defeat this project. These same interests have given \$397,101 in campaign contributions in recent years. Connect the dots and see who's on what team, and what is at stake for the winners...

### Beyond The Players: How the Stadium Will Affect NY'ers

Plans for redeveloping the West Side extend beyond just building a new stadium for the Jets. Possible plans include expanding the Javits Center and several infrastructure projects, including the extension of the #7 subway line and a platform over the MTA's eastern rail yards. The redevelopment would also require the re-zoning of large swaths of the West Side. The stadium project, called the New York Sports and Convention Center, would play host to the 2012 Olympics were the city to win the bid and would also provide extra exhibition space for the Javits Center. Clearly, each and every one of these planned changes would have major impacts on the city and its residents.

New Yorkers have good reason to be concerned about the fate of the stadium project in particular. In March, the city and state announced that they would

contribute \$300 million each to the development costs of the stadium, a private entity. It is not yet known how these contributions will be financed. It is estimated that the stadium will cost \$1.4 billion to build. The Jets have agreed to provide \$800 million in financing, though some reports have suggested that they may seek tax-exempt financing that would reduce this contribution. Proponents of the stadium say it will bring in over \$70 million in tax revenue annually, more than making up for the large sums of public money that will be contributed. Stadium detractors have argued that this \$70 million figure is inflated. Either way, New Yorkers deserve to know all of the facts about the stadium plan, so that they can penetrate beyond sophisticated ad campaigns to decide what they want for their city and the West Side.

**The Current Overall Score:**  
**\$11,494,246.00**  
**Spent on Lobbying\***

### The Pro Team: Stadium Supporters



**TOTAL SPENT: \$3,124,549.00**

Since January, the Jets have spent a total of \$2,954,336 lobbying in New York City and in Albany, according to their filings with the New York Temporary State Commission on Lobbying. Others who support the stadium and West Side development, including NYC & Co., the city's tourism agency; NYC 2012, the city's Olympic committee; and a number of building and construction unions, have spent a total of \$170,213 lobbying on the state and city levels.

### The Con Team: Stadium Detractors

**TOTAL SPENT: \$8,212,974.00**

Madison Square Garden has spent a total of \$2,686,915 lobbying on issues related to the West Side in New York City and in Albany in 2003 and 2004, according to their filings with the New York Temporary State Commission on Lobbying. Madison Square Garden's owner, Cablevision, has also spent \$ 5,526,059 lobbying in New York City and Albany since January, 2004.



\*OTHER INTEESTS: \$156,723

## The Lineup: A Clash of the Titans

The teams fighting for and against a new stadium for the Jets include some of the most prominent members of New York's business and government communities.

On the pro-stadium team sit Robert Wood Johnson, IV (owner of the NY Jets, philanthropist, and major Republican campaign contributor), Mayor Bloomberg, Deputy Mayor Daniel Doctoroff, and Governor Pataki. Joining these heavyweights are various construction and hotel employee unions as well as NYC & Co., the city's tourism agency.

The opposing team is headed up by the father and son team of Charles and James Dolan, who own Cablevision and Madison Square Garden, the arena that would compete with any new stadium.

Both sides have hired powerful and well-connected lobbyists and launched powerful and high-cost advertising blitzes to promote their views in the halls of state and city government and on billboards and television sets across the city.

## Campaign Cash



### Pro Team

In addition to spending heavily on lobbying over the past year, Jets owner Robert Wood Johnson, IV and CEO L. Jay Cross have also long been campaign contributors in New York State. Together, they have contributed \$81,581.82 on the state level since 2001, including \$27,000 from Wood Johnson, IV to the New York State Senate Republican Campaign Committee and \$36,281.82 from Wood Johnson, IV to Friends of Pataki. L. Jay Cross has also made modest campaign contributions on the city level, including \$1,000 to Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields in 2003 and \$2,000 to Council Member David Weprin in 2004.

### Con Team

In addition to their recent lobby spending, Madison Square Garden Owners Charles and James Dolan have also historically been major campaign contributors, having given \$185,300 on the state level since 1999. This total includes \$50,000 to Governor Pataki, \$9,300 to Friends of Silver, and \$48,000 to Sheldon Silver's Speaker PAC. The Dolans have also contributed \$35,750 in New York City since 1999.

## The Pro Team: Players

### Lobbyists hired by the Jets.

**Mercury Public Affairs**—headed by former Pataki staff and CEO **Kieran Mahoney**.

Lobbyist **Michael McKeon**—former chief spokesman for Governor Pataki. **\$95,500** in total compensation and reimbursed expenses to date.

**Billy Lynch Associates, LLC**

Lobbyist **William Lynch**—was Deputy Manager for the Kerry campaign. **\$20,000** in compensation and reimbursed expenses to date.

**Greenberg Traurig**

Lobbyist **Robert Harding**—is a former Deputy Mayor **\$43,689** in compensation and reimbursed expenses to date.

Lobbyist **Ken Sunshine**—is a former staffer for Speaker Silver.

**\$5,000** in compensation and reimbursed expenses to date.

**RAD USA, Inc.**

Lobbyist **Louis Tomson**—is a former Deputy Secretary for Governor Pataki. **\$22,500** in compensation and reimbursed expenses to date.

**Brown McMahon & Weinraub**

Lobbyists include:

**Patrick Brown**—former deputy counsel to Gov. Cuomo

**James McMahon**—brother of City Council Speaker Gifford Miller's Chief of Staff

**Daivd Weinraub**—former aide to Governor Cuomo.

**\$8,000** in compensation and reimbursed expenses to date.

**Jeffrey Buley**—Counsel to the NYS Republican Party (recently added to the lobby team- has not reported receiving any compensation to date)

**Harry Giannoulis** of the Parkside Group is Commissioner for the Taxi and Limousine Commission and worked as a regional representative for former Governor Cuomo. His firm's contract with the Jets began on September 1st.

**The Jets internal lobbying team.**

**\$2,595,372** to pay for outreach videos, booklets and other materials; banners; TV, cable and radio ads; pamphlets; t-shirts; dinners; stickers; posters; baseball caps; website development; print ads; list purchasing; and other aspects of their aggressive public relations and lobby campaign.

## The Con Team: Players

### Lobbyists Hired by Madison Square Garden and Cablevision

**Patricia Lynch Associates** (retained by both companies)—headed by lobbyist **Patricia Lynch**—who was the primary spokesperson for Speaker Silver. **\$34,000** in compensation and reimbursed expenses paid by MSG in 2004 **\$13,000** in compensation and reimbursed expenses paid by Cablevision (CSC Holdings) during the same period. (Patricia Lynch Associates also lobbied extensively on behalf of Madison Square in 2003, though the West Side was not cited on the firm's bi-monthly lobby reports during this period).

**Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman, Dicker, LLP**

Including lobbyists:

**Kenneth Shapiro**—was counsel to former City Council Speaker Fink and current Speaker Miller.

**Kenneth Bruno**—is the son of NYS Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno.

**\$31,080** in compensation and reimbursed expenses paid by MSG for West Side related lobbying in 2004.

**Park Strategies, LLC**

**Alfonse D'Amato**—former NYS Senator. **\$15,000** in compensation and reimbursed expenses paid to the firm by MSG in 2004.

**Arthur J. Finkelstein & Associates, Inc.**

**Arthur J. Finkelstein**—a former pollster for the Pataki campaign.

**\$83,814** paid to Finkelstein by MSG in compensation and reimbursed expenses to date.

**The Glover Park Group Inc.**

**Gigi Georges**—most recently served as communications director for the NYC Department of Education. She previously served as State Director for Senator Hilary Clinton and as a special assistant to the President in the Clinton/Gore administration.

**\$21,589** paid by MSG in compensation and reimbursed expenses to date.

**MSG's internal lobbying team**

**\$1,652,256** Spent from May to August by MSG primarily on media buys and billboards.

**Cablevision internal lobbying team**

**\$5,368,611** Spent from May to August by Cablevision on public messages, pins, and even an appearance by the Rockettes.

This fact sheet was created as part of a series called CONNECT THE DOTS, which aims to show how money in politics impacts on issues New Yorkers care about.

For more information about Common Cause/NY's CONNECT THE DOTS coalition, call 1-800-300-8707.

This project was made possible by support from the New York Community Trust and the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation.

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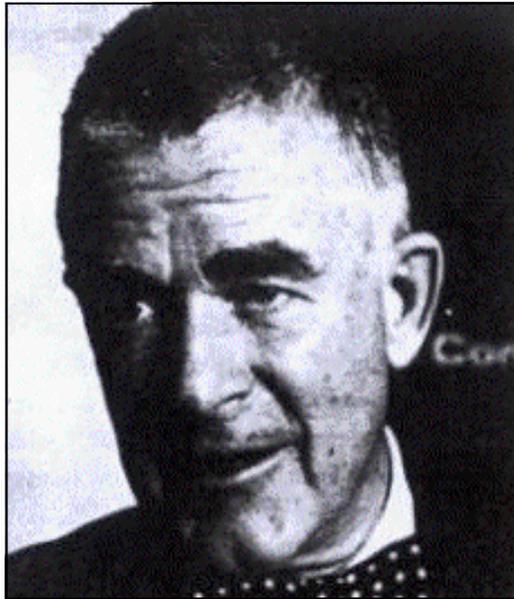
Mr. Cuomo, attorney, author, lecturer and former three-term Governor of New York State, has been called upon frequently to discuss and debate the subject of "values" in today's political dialogue. Now he is suggesting how those values can operate to enhance - instead of paralyze - the government of laws that leaders like Abraham Lincoln and Archibald Cox envisioned. His recent book, Why Lincoln Matters Today More Than Ever, will be discussed.

Common Cause/NY members can attend the lecture for \$35. A special package including reserved seats for the lecture and an intimate post-lecture dessert reception with Governor Cuomo is available on a limited basis for \$75. **The first twenty people who sign up for the lecture and reception package will also receive a signed copy of Mr. Cuomo's book** as well, so call or send in your coupon today!

Series sponsorship rates are available for interested individuals or law firms - please call 1-800-300-8707 for more information. All proceeds for the Archibald Cox series will benefit Common Cause/NY's efforts to improve democracy in New York State. This lecture is co-sponsored by the CUNY Graduate Center.

"The adventure in democracy is part of the journey of mankind upwards from the hot, dark swamp in which our remote ancestors move. Lower than the angels but above the brute, we still blunder about in the swamp in the dark with no absolutes to guide us. A step forward. But two steps back. A false lead. But then a little progress. The skies lighten. Paths that were hidden become a little plainer. Full light of day? Perhaps not ever. But old Ben Franklin was right. It is always dawn"

-Archibald Cox on the 20th Anniversary of Common Cause



**Mario Cuomo Presents First in the Cox Memorial Lecture Series**

Tuesday, February 10th at 7pm  
CUNY Graduate Center  
365 5th Avenue @ 34th St.

- Yes, I will join you for the lecture**  
Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$35 per ticket.
- Yes, I will join you for both the lecture and dessert reception**  
Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$75 per ticket.
- I cannot attend, but enclosed is my contribution for \_\_\_\_\_**

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*Please make checks payable to Common Cause/NY. Contributions to Common Cause/NY are not tax deductible.*

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