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DATE: March 21, 2007

TO: Professor Charlotte Grimes
S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications/Syracuse University
Knight Chair in Political Reporting
Assistant Professor Nancy Scherer
Wellesley College, Department of Political Science

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

RE: BUILDING HONEST SCHOLARSHIP & PEDAGOGY: “Are Federal Judges Political? Views from the Academy, the Bench, and the Press”

On March 27, 2007, you will be participating in a symposium “Are Federal Judges Political? Views from the Academy, the Bench, and the Press”, sponsored by Syracuse University’s Institute for the Study of Judiciary, Politics, and the Media and its College of Law. The symposium is slated to include “What role does politics play in determining who sits on the lower federal courts and how decisions on those courts are made?” and will be moderated by the Institute’s Director Keith Bybee,

Please be advised that more than four months ago I sent Professor Bybee a November 17, 2006 letter, offering the Institute and other entities at Syracuse University the benefit of CJA’s goldmine of primary source documents to advance scholarship and contribute to topics that had been, or were going to be, the subject of Institute symposia and lectures. Indeed, the value of such documents – and of our direct, first-hand experiences from which they emerge – was highlighted by the letter’s recitation of a succession of materially false and misleading representations by panelists at the Institute’s October 19, 2006 symposium “The Last Umpires? The News Media, the ABA, and Other Independent Voices in the Federal Confirmation Process”.

Among the entities at Syracuse University to which my November 17, 2006 letter expressly asked Director Bybee to act as liaison: the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, where

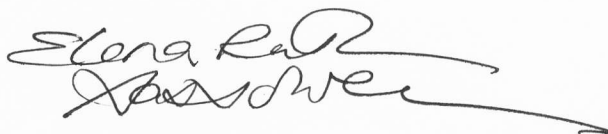
* The **Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.** (CJA) is a national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens’ organization dedicated to ensuring that the processes of judicial selection and discipline are effective and meaningful – a goal which cannot be achieved without honest scholarship and a press discharging its First Amendment responsibilities.

Professor Grimes holds the Knight Chair in Political Reporting.¹ The letter identified that Professor Grimes was to be a panelist at the Institute's March 27, 2007 symposium. It further noted that Professor Scherer was also to be a panelist and that back in 2004 CJA had provided her with a proposal for evidence-based scholarship entitled "Beyond Statistics to Documentary Evidence: The Corruption of Federal Judicial Selection/Confirmation, as *Readily-Verifiable* from Case-Studies of So-Called 'Mainstream', 'Consensus' Nominations – Including those Engineered by Senator Charles Schumer".²

To date, I have received no response from Director Bybee to this November 17, 2006 letter. Nor have I received a response from the other Institute recipients to whom I sent it – including the Institute's Associate Director Mark Obbie, who is Director of the Carnegie Legal Reporting Program at Newhouse. Similarly, I have received no response from them to my follow-up January 10, 2007 letter, addressed to Professor Obbie. Likewise, I have received no response from the participants of the October 19, 2006 discussion to whom I also sent my letters: Stephen L. Tober, Esq. and Professor Lee Epstein.³

Copies of these November 17, 2006 and January 10, 2007 letters are enclosed for your examination so that you can come to your own conclusions as to your professional and ethical responsibilities both with respect to the March 27, 2007 symposium and your further scholarship and teaching.

You may be assured of our full assistance.



Enclosures
cc: see next page

¹ So as to give Director Bybee the privilege of filling such important liaison role, I limited my contact with Professor Grimes to a single e-mail message, which I sent her on November 14, 2006, because I could not resist thanking her for the powerful vision of journalism and political reporting that was set forth by her website, <http://knightpoliticalreporting.syr.edu/>. A copy of my e-mail to her is enclosed.

² As that important May 4, 2004 proposal for scholarship is plainly germane to the March 27, 2007 discussion as to the role politics plays in judicial selection to the lower federal courts, a copy is enclosed.

³ Nor have I received a response from Lyle Denniston, whose contact information I do not have and to whom I had requested that Professors Bybee and Obbie forward my letters. In the absence of any confirmation from Professors Bybee and Obbie that they had done so, I turned to Dahlia Lithwick, Senior Editor and Chief Legal Correspondent for Slate.com, who had participated in two separate Institute symposia. On February 16, 2007, I asked her if she would pass my November 17, 2006 letter on to Mr. Denniston – which she agreed to do. I gave her a copy, in hand, for that purpose, as well as to enable her to educate herself as to the readily-verifiable primary source evidence of corruption that academia has been refusing to confront and the news media refusing to report, for which reason I also gave her a copy of the May 4, 2004 proposal for scholarship.

cc: Institute for the Study of the Judiciary, Politics, & the Media

Keith Bybee, Director

Mark Obbie, Associate Director

Lisa Dolak, Associate Director

Sara Mortimer, Director of Public Relations

Bert Kaufman, Graduate Assistant

October 19, 2006 symposium participants

Stephen L. Tober, Esq.

Professor Lee Epstein

Lyle Denniston

Dahlia Lithwick, Senior Editor & Chief Legal Correspondent, Slate.com