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January 29, 1996

Michael Straight, Esq.
Conservation, Environment and Historic
Preservation, Inc.
1627 K Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Straight:

Thank you for the generous time you gave me last month when we spoke by phone.

Enclosed is a copy of our November 28, 1995 testimony before the Second Circuit Task Force on Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts about the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal. Also enclosed is a copy of our December 9, 1994 testimony before the Long Range Planning Committee of the Judicial Conference. I would be most interested in your comments.

As discussed, I was unaware of your important report to the National Commission until <u>after</u> I testified before the Second Circuit Task Force. However, I was pleased to see the numerous respects in which, independently, we made the <u>same</u> observations about the FJC and Marcus reports and about the "merits related" dismissals of bias complaints filed under the 1980 Act.

I have notified the Task Force of your valuable report—and have, additionally, been working on a supplement to my testimony to further highlight it. I will send you a copy when it's completed.

Again, thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

ELENA RUTH SASSOWER Coordin

ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

Enclosures: As indicated, plus a copy of the Center's brochure