

## CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY HAND

March 14, 2002

Ralph Nader, Esq.  
c/o Barnes & Nobles/Union Square  
33 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York

RE: Your assistance in developing our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

Dear Mr. Nader:

It has been nearly eight years since I first turned to you for assistance in building our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), whose purpose is to document the dysfunction, politicization, and corruption of the closed-door processes of judicial selection and discipline on federal, state, and local levels so as to achieve reform, including meaningful citizen participation.

The record of your response – essentially limited to your recognition that fear of judicial retaliation has kept even public interest organizations, such as your own Public Citizen, from tackling judicial misconduct issues – is reflected by the record of my one-sided correspondence to you<sup>1</sup>. For your convenience, that one-sided correspondence is annexed hereto as Exhibits "A" – "R".

I am proud to say that CJA has persevered in face of the enormous hurdles of *no* foundation funding, *no* "connections", *near total* media suppression – and the enormous disappointment of finding *no* encouragement from *any* quarter for our full-time citizen action, including from you from whom we most expected encouragement. Although we have not been able to develop the infrastructure of our organization, including a Board of Directors with "name recognition", we have not slackened in our commitment to meticulously document what can only be described as an "Enron-style" breakdown of all safeguards for ensuring the integrity

<sup>1</sup> See my December 4, 1996 letter to you (Exhibit "E"); my February 19, 1999 letter to you (Exhibit "R").

of the processes of judicial selection and discipline.

At your convenience, I would appreciate the opportunity I requested many years ago of making a personal presentation to you so that you can see for yourself how very worthy CJA is of your patronage, how utterly corrupt the processes of judicial selection and discipline are, and the wholesale disrespect and disdain given to citizen involvement in these essential processes.

Chronicling this is CJA's enclosed July 3, 2001 letter <sup>to</sup> Senator Charles Schumer, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Courts Subcommittee. It details that "except when the Senate Judiciary Committee is searching for some non-ideological 'hook on which to hang an ideologically-objectionable nominee – the Committee cares little, if at all, about scrutinizing the qualifications of the judicial nominees it is confirming" and that it abuses public-spirited citizens who come forward with adverse information about judicial nominees and the sham process that produces them. CJA's July 3, 2001 letter also references (at p. 3) the important work done by your Congress Project more than a quarter of a century ago in its book The Judiciary Committees, with its chapter entitled "*Judicial Nominations: Whither 'Advice and Consent'?*".

You are an indicated recipient of CJA's July 3, 2001 letter, as likewise of CJA's coverletters to other recipients: President Bush, Senate Leaders Daschle and Lott, Senator Clinton, the Senators of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, as well as Common Cause and The Century Foundation – copies of which are also enclosed. So bad is the situation that over and above the substantive significance of these letters, warranting response, even the presence of your name did nothing to elicit that response. Indeed, the only written response we received was from President Bush's counsel, Alberto Gonzalez ~~and~~ <sup>whose</sup> his associate had previously responded to our earlier letter to President Bush on the ABA's role in judicial screening [see Exhibits "A-3" and "A-4" to CJA's July 3, 2001 letter].

I hope you will take the opportunity to peruse the exhibits to CJA's July 3, 2001 letter to Senator Schumer, as they provide the graphic particulars of what the letter compresses<sup>2</sup>. I would point out that you have full copies of the documentation described in the letter as

<sup>2</sup> The final exhibits "N" and "O" detail the hoax of federal judicial discipline – including the House Judiciary Committee's wilful abandonment of its oversight responsibilities – summarized at pages 16-17 of our July 3, 2001 letter. These exhibits also substantiate my urgent plea for your help, in my last letter to you, hand-written and hand-delivered to your Center for the Study of Responsive Law on February 19, 1999 (Exhibit "R").

establishing the gross deficiencies of pre-nomination judicial screening: the May 1, 1992 Critique, Compendium of Exhibits, and three substantiating Correspondence Compendia. Indeed, these were transmitted to you with my very first letter, dated August 2, 1994 (Exhibit "A"). As to the gross deficiencies of the post-nomination federal judicial screening process, the documentary proof, consisting of CJA's June 28, 1996 letter to then Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch<sup>3</sup>, was transmitted to you, with substantiating exhibits, under my December 4, 1996 letter (Exhibit "E", p. 3, Exhibit "F-1").

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

Enclosures

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<sup>3</sup> A copy of that horrifying June 28, 1996 letter to Chairman Hatch, recounting the campaign of harassment to which I was subjected when I flew down to Washington on June 25, 1996 to testify in opposition to the Senate Judiciary Committee's confirmation of Lawrence Kahn to the Northern District of New York -- including my ARREST -- is Exhibit "I-1" to CJA's July 3, 2001 letter to Senator Schumer.