

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Box 69, Gedney Station
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December 23, 1994

Dear NYU Law Classmates:

Incredible as it may seem, next year marks the fortieth anniversary of our graduation. With only a handful of women in the class of '55 -- a far cry from today's classes -- women had no trouble being "outstanding". Consequently, even those of you who did not know me personally may well remember me from those days.

As some of you know, shortly after graduation, I was privileged to work for former Dean Arthur T. Vanderbilt, then Chief Justice of New Jersey's highest court, who is generally credited with having transformed that state's archaic court system into one of the country's most modern. Judge Vanderbilt -- for whom Vanderbilt Hall is named -- was fond of saying that "law reform is not a sport for the short-winded". My own lifetime commitment to law reform issues, inspired by Judge Vanderbilt's example, is reflected by the enclosed copy of my biographic listing in the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory.

After many years of active involvement in issues relating to judicial selection and reform, I spoke out in 1989 against a corrupt political deal involving major party cross-endorsement of seven judgeships in the Ninth Judicial District of New York. In 1990, I undertook, pro bono, an Election Law case challenging this deal and the judicial nominating conventions that implemented it as unconstitutional, illegal, and fraudulent.

On June 19, 1991, the day before the last day to file the Notice of Appeal with the New York State Court of Appeals in that groundbreaking lawsuit, I was served with a findingless order suspending my law license, immediately, unconditionally, and indefinitely. Thereafter, the Court of Appeals refused to review the dismissal of the Election Law case, as well as of my suspension order. You may have read about my unexpected personal and professional battle these past five years, described in an advertisement appearing on the Op-Ed page of the October 26, 1994 New York Times. For those of you who missed it, I enclose a copy to give you an idea of the vicious retaliation to which I have been subjected for my judicial whistle-blowing, including my baseless suspension. Of all the honors bestowed on me in my career, this was a singular distinction I could never have conceived of in my wildest imagination.

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DORIS L. SASSOWER

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October 29, 1991

Dear Friends of the NYU Law Community:

As my first paying employer, Arthur T. Vanderbilt, then Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court and former Dean of the law school used to say: "law reform is not a sport for the short-winded". How right he was!

Following his lead, I devoted most of my professional life to the goals he strived for. Quite frankly, after 35 years at it I am running out of breath. That is why I am turning to you now.

All of us share a commitment to the rule of law--but it is only an ideal if there is no enforcement of it in the courts. I would appreciate your reading the enclosed letter I have just written to Governor Cuomo.

I would welcome your suggestions as to how best to proceed. Obviously, it would be extremely helpful if, after reading the enclosed, you would express your concern by writing the Governor and urging him to appoint a Special Prosecutor to investigate this shocking situation ASAP.

Your ideas, volunteer time, media and legislative contacts, etc. to the cause of improving the quality of the judiciary would be most welcome.

Yours in the interest of justice,



DORIS L. SASSOWER, N.Y.U. Law '55
Director, NINTH JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Enclosures
DLS/er

In view of the extraordinary wall of silence on the part of the press, please feel free to pass on the letter and its enclosures, with a similar request to your chosen recipient.