

Subject: Re: Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Elections

Date: 10/3/2003, 10:42 AM

From: Michael SWEENEY <MSWEENEY@law.fordham.edu>

To: Judgewatchers@aol.com

Dear Ms. Sassower,

I am sorry for my tardy reply. I have been busy with the public hearings.

The hearing transcripts will be published, although it will take some time to compile and check them for error. I do not have an estimate for when they will be available. The written statements are being posted on the website. Some are already up there.

Thank you for the insight into the media. We will try to incorporate it into our process.

Thank you, too, for the information that you provided. Please note that the Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Elections' mandate is to provide a blue print for improving public confidence and promoting voter participation. We are not charged with investigating individual complaints.

- Mike Sweeney

>>> <Judgewatchers@aol.com> 9/18/2003 4:50:17 PM >>>

Dear Mr. Sweeney,

Thank you for the witness list of the Commission's September 16th NYC hearing. Will the hearing transcript be posed on the Commission's EXCELLENT website? -- and if so, when? How about the written statement of witnesses.

I already have DA Hynes' written statement, which I obtained earlier today from his press office.

After our phone conversation, I called David Bookstaver, the OCA's Communications Director, to suggest that a LINK be added from the OCA website to the Commission's website. I also gave him your telephone number, as well as John Feerick's current number. This, because when I phoned Mr. Bookstaver ten days ago for information about how to reach the Commission (this, after leaving 4 unreturned voice mail messages for Barbara Reed on August 12th, 18th, 21st, and September 2nd), all he had was John Feerick's old number as Fordham Law School Dean.

Although ten days ago Mr. Bookstaver did not have the info I needed, he did tell me that the OCA sent the Commission's press release to The New York Times and others. Did you separately send the release to The Times or was it through him?

After speaking to Mr. Bookstaver, I called The Times to confirm that the press release wasn't printed. Anthony Ramirez handles the Metro Briefing section -- and when I first asked him about the release, he told me "it doesn't ring a bell". He stated that they get so many releases that "the trigger finger gets itchy" and "it may have been deleted".

In the future -- and notwithstanding you say the two up-coming hearings are "oversubscribed" -- someone should follow-up with a PHONE CALL to the various newspapers about such important press releases as the one for the Commissions' hearings. Mr. Ramirez' direct # is 212-556-1254.

Finally, attached for your convenience, is my mother's October 24, 1991 letter to Governor Cuomo, as it offers a good overview of the Election Law lawsuit she brought as pro bono counsel to challenge the three-year judge-trading deal and the illegally-conducted judicial nominating conventions, etc. Such letter (posted on our website under correspondence: NYS Officials: Governor Cuomo) was widely circulated over many, many years -- far beyond the list of indicated recipients -- including to John Feerick, then incoming President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

The Commission on Judicial Conduct -- on which sat Helaine Barnett, one of your members -- was an indicated recipient of the October 24, 1991 letter, which it received as a complaint -- and then dismissed, without investigation and without reasons, as likewise related judicial misconduct complaints.

I see from your September 16th witness list that William C. Thompson testified. We have LOTS to say [ALL DOCUMENTED] about his pivotal role as an Appellate Division, Second Dept Justice in employing his judicial office to cover up and facilitate the corruption of judicial elections -- and in viciously retaliating against my mother. This, all the while he was the Commission on Judicial Conduct's highest-ranking judicial member.

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