



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

JAMES M. MCGUIRE
COUNSEL TO THE GOVERNOR

April 7, 1999

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.
ATTN: Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator
P.O. Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Dear Ms. Sassower:

This letter is to acknowledge that on or about April 1, 1999, this office received your Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request for :

1. "the 'financial statement' of now Court of Appeals Judge Albert Rosenblatt;"
2. "the 'written reports' of ALL the Governor's judicial appointees to the lower state courts, from the inception of his administration in 1995 to the present;"
3. "all publicly-accessible records responsive to the other *basic* information requested by our June 2, 1997 letter and subsequent correspondence -- access to which is not barred by Executive Orders #10 and #11. This includes: (1) written rules and procedures, if any, of the temporary judiciary screening committee; (2) a copy, in blank, of the questionnaire(s) that the temporary judicial screening committee required judicial candidates to complete, if any; (3) the 'written notification', pursuant to ¶4 of Executive Order #11, from the chairpersons of the permanent judicial screening committees' to the chairman of the temporary judicial screening committee that the permanent committees were 'fully operational'; (4) a copy of the 'Uniform Rules of the Governor's Judicial Screening Committees' -- including the Appendices thereto consisting of copies, in blank, of the questionnaire(s) judicial candidates are required to complete; (5) records showing whether and when the county screening committees became 'operational', including the names of the persons designated to each of the 62 county judicial screening committees by the chief executive officer of each county, as specified by ¶5 of Executive Order #10;

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(6) records showing the cost to the taxpayers of the Governor's judicial screening committees -- especially for 'staff and resources' and 'paid staff' required for their operations and investigative activity, as provided for by ¶7 of Executive Order #10."

4. "the Governor's letter appointing Paul Shechtman to the Ethics Commission, in or about April 1997;" and

5. "his letter appointing Mr. Shechtman as Chairman of his State Judicial Screening Committee, in or about December 1998."

Please be advised that as with any FOIL Request, this office is only obligated to grant access to those documents or records which are kept by the Executive Chamber, subject to certain exemptions. Further, this office is not obligated to grant access to those documents or records that are not kept within the Executive Chamber or those documents or records that do not exist. In addition, FOIL does not require a state agency to create documents in response to a FOIL Request.

I will review our records to determine what materials we have that would be responsive to your request. Pursuant to the provision of §89 (3) of the Public Officers Law, we should be able to provide you with a further response no later than May 6, 1999.

Sincerely,

Rosario Vizzie (BA)

Rosario Vizzie
Assistant Counsel to the Governor
Records Access Officer