

# CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

July 17, 2001

Common Cause  
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20036

ATT: Edwin Davis, Lobbyist

RE: Coalition-Building and Collaboration on the *non-partisan* issues of ensuring the *integrity* of the processes of federal judicial selection and discipline

Dear Mr. Davis:

By now you should have received the materials I sent to you following our July 10<sup>th</sup> telephone conversation. In addition to a "hard copy" of my July 10<sup>th</sup> fax, enclosing a copy of my letter to you from 1996, you should have received copies of the following:

- (1) CJA's July 3, 2001 letter to Senator Charles Schumer
- (2) CJA's July 11, 2001 letter to Senate Majority/Minority Leaders
- (3) CJA's July 11, 2001 letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Members
- (4) CJA's July 9, 2001 letter to House Judiciary Committee Counsel.

Transmitted herewith are copies of two additional letters to public officers:

- (5) CJA's July 14, 2001 letter to President George W. Bush
- (6) CJA's July 14, 2001 letter to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton,

and, additionally, a copy of CJA's July 17, 2001 letter to The Twentieth Century Fund.

As Senator Schumer's upcoming hearings on "the judicial nominating process" are an invaluable opportunity for promoting essential safeguards to protect the public from potentially unfit judges and for expanding democratic participation, CJA reiterates the view

– presented to you five years ago – that it would be most advantageous if the neatly-itemized recommendations in Common Cause’s 1986 study, Assembly-Line Approval, could serve “as a starting point for consensus and concerted action by organizations of all political and ideological stripes. This includes Free Congress Foundation, on the right, and Alliance for Justice, on the left.”

Would Common Cause be willing to take the lead in forging such coalition for non-partisan reform? Efforts should begin as soon as possible so that, by the time Senator Schumer actually holds the hearings on “the judicial nominating process”, there is a “united front” of important organizations and prominent individuals supporting the recommendations.

Hopefully, this non-partisan coalition -- placing the “integrity” of governmental processes over ideology -- would also publicly endorse CJA’s request to Senator Schumer for congressional hearings on federal judicial discipline and removal – beginning with hearings on the 1993 Report of the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal. Indeed, there is nothing remotely ideological or partisan about the proof substantiating Exhibits “N” and “O” to CJA’s July 3, 2001 letter that

“the mechanisms for disciplining and removing incompetent, dishonest, and abusive federal judges from the bench are *verifiably* sham and dysfunctional.” (CJA’s July 3, 2001 letter, at p. 16)

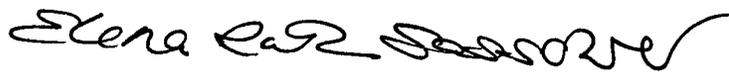
In the meantime, based on Exhibits “N” and “O”, CJA calls on Common Cause to publicly endorse our request for hearings on judicial selection and discipline. Needless to say, CJA would be pleased to answer any questions Common Cause might have about these exhibits and to supply the substantiating proof to which the exhibits refer.

Now, as in the past, CJA looks forward to developing with Common Cause “a cooperative working relationship”. Not only would CJA benefit from Common Cause’s advice in developing strategies for advancing reform, but Common Cause, which has NO staff monitoring the integrity of the processes of judicial selection and discipline, would gain the expertise and information that CJA is ready to share. Based on the examples of CJA’s workproduct in your possession – reflecting our high standards of professionalism and citizen action – please schedule a meeting for the earliest possible date.

Thank you.

July 17, 2001

Yours for a quality judiciary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elena Ruth Sassower". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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

Enclosures: As indicated

cc: Greg Anrig, Vice-President of Program  
The Century Foundation  
Ralph Nader, Center for the Study of Responsive Law