

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY PRIORITY MAIL

August 18, 1998

Nan Aron, President
Alliance for Justice
Suite 712
Washington, D.C. 20036

Thomas Jipping, Director
Judicial Selection Monitoring Project
Free Congress Foundation
717 Second Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Concerted Action on Issues of Federal Judicial Selection and Discipline

Dear Ms. Aron and Mr. Jipping:

Enclosed is a copy of CJA's August 11th letter to ABA President Philip Anderson -- to which each of you are indicated recipients by reason of its discussion of the exigent need for opposition to Senate confirmation of Alvin K. Hellerstein, based on his cover-up of the dysfunctional federal judicial screening, as documented by CJA's 1992 critique and supplement. The ABA's dysfunctional screening -- and its background to Mr. Hellerstein's nomination -- are recounted at pages 6-10. Exhibit "0-3" to the letter is CJA's August 3, 1998 fax, proposing that our respective organizations work together to present a "united front against Mr. Hellerstein's confirmation -- as well as on the larger issue of the thoroughly rubber-stamp and undemocratic fashion in which the Senate Judiciary Committee conducts its confirmation hearings." Despite our fax's request that you let us know "whether and to what extent you will join us in 'making a stand'", we have heard nothing from either of you.

Please promptly respond -- and please, also, belatedly, respond to the reasonable request in CJA's August 13, 1996 letter, that you "set forth [your organization's] views as to each of the recommendations for reform of the federal judicial confirmations process, long ago proposed by Common Cause and the Twentieth Century Fund". For your convenience, a copy of that letter is enclosed, with those recommendations appended.

August 18, 1998

Finally, since each of you have made presentations on matters of judicial discipline and independence, including to Congress on H.R. 1252 and to the ABA's Commission on Separation of Powers and Judicial Independence, enclosed is the cert petition in *Sassower v. Mangano, et al.* -- which focuses on issues of judicial independence and discipline, directly refers to a pivotal inadequacy of the ABA Commission's 1997 Report (at p. 25), and includes in its appendix CJA's two Memoranda to the House Judiciary Committee on H.R. 1252 [A-295; A-301].

We specifically request your comments on those Memoranda in the context of your review of the *Sassower v. Mangano* cert petition -- and your endorsement of our call, reiterating that of the ABA [A-303], for Congress to hold a hearing on the 1993 Report of the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal. We also request your *amicus* and other support in obtaining Supreme Court review of the cert petition, as well as impeachment and criminal investigation of the federal judges whose corrupt conduct is the subject of that petition. In that connection, enclosed are copies of our July 20, 1998 letter to the U.S. Solicitor General, our July 27, 1998 letter to the Chief of the Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, and the New York State Attorney General's August 4, 1998 waiver of respondents' opposing brief -- also sent to ABA President Anderson by our August 11th letter -- as well as the Solicitor General's August 10, 1998 letter, not received by us until August 13, 1998.

We look forward to your substantive responses.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

Enclosures: as indicated

cc: Citizens for Independent Courts
ATT: Virginia Sloan, Executive Director

P.S. We urge you to review our written statement to the House Judiciary Committee for inclusion in the record of its June 11, 1998 "oversight hearing of the administration and operation of the federal judiciary", as well as our April 24, 1998 testimony before the Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals, both accessible on CJA's website: www.judgewatch.org