

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

P.O. Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Tel. (914) 421-1200
Fax (914) 428-4994

E-Mail: judgewatch@aol.com
Website: www.judgewatch.org

DATE: September 22, 2003

TO: Barbara Reed, Director, Courts Initiative/ The Constitution Project
Fax: 202-721-5659 (1 page) E-Mail: reed@constitutionproject.org

Geri Palast, Executive Director, Justice at Stake Campaign
Fax: 202-588-9485 (1 page) E-Mail: info@justiceatstake.org

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

RE: Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Elections, etc.

On Tuesday, September 16th, each of you testified before Chief Judge Judith Kaye's Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Elections at its public hearing held in Manhattan.

I hereby call upon you to explain why neither of you saw fit to inform me of the September 16th hearing -- which I only learned of from after-the-fact news reports. Did neither of you believe that the Center for Judicial Accountability (CJA) had relevant testimony to contribute?

In that connection, please confirm that neither of you have yet responded to my time-sensitive September 10th letter, addressed to Ms. Reed, with a copy to Ms. Palast. The letter's second paragraph, whose content I discussed with Ms. Palast in our phone conversation on September 4th, summarized that notwithstanding the Commission's invitation to Ms. Reed to "act as a consultant and provide briefing materials", I had received no return call from her to my August 18th, August 21st, and September 2nd voice mail messages, expressly requesting her assistance in making appropriate arrangements with the Commission for us to be interviewed and give testimony based on our "direct, first-hand experience with New York judicial elections, of which we have a wealth of primary-source materials." (emphases in September 10th ltr).

I await your prompt response. Meantime, please send me a copy of any written statements you presented at the September 16th hearing. Both will be incorporated in CJA's upcoming written presentation to the Commission.



cc: Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Elections
Recipients of CJA's September 10th letter

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

*CIVIC
Initiative
Credit Project
- Barbara Reed*

TIME : 09/22/2003 13:34

NAME : CJA

FAX : 9144284994

TEL : 9144211200

DATE, TIME	09/22 13:33
FAX NO./NAME	12027215659
DURATION	00:00:43
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RESULT	OK
MODE	STANDARD ECM

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

*Justice of
State
Seri Palast*

TIME : 09/22/2003 13:39

NAME : CJA

FAX : 9144284994

TEL : 9144211200

DATE, TIME	09/22 13:38
FAX NO./NAME	12025889485
DURATION	00:00:43
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RESULT	OK
MODE	STANDARD ECM

Subj: Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Elections, etc.
Date: 9/22/2003 1:55:12 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Judgewatchers
To: reed@constitutionproject.org, info@justiceatstake.org
Cc: msweeney@law.fordham.edu
File: 9-22-03-reed-palast.doc, 9-10-03-reed-with6-16-03.doc, 9-10-03-recipients.doc
TO: Barbara Reed, Director, Courts Initiative/Constitution Project
Geri Palast, Executive Director, Justice at Stake Campaign

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

Attached is my already faxed memo of today's date to each of you.

Inasmuch as it is also being e-mailed to Professor Michael Sweeney, Counsel to the Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Elections, also attached is my referred-to unresponded-to September 10th letter to Ms. Reed, as well as the September 10th transmittal memo to Ms. Palast.