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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

September 21, 1992

Ms. Elena Sassower
 Coordinator, Ninth Judicial Committee
 Box 70, Gedney Station
 White Plains, New York 10605-0070

Dear Ms. Sassower:

We understand that you were in town last week and asked to meet with us about judicial nominations generally and the nomination of Mr. Andrew O'Rourke in particular. We regret that we were unavailable given both the short notice and the crowded calendar of business in the few remaining weeks of this Congress.

Your recent letters -- as well as the Ninth Judicial Committee's critique of Mr. O'Rourke's nomination -- expresses a number of concerns regarding the "screening process" of the Justice Department and the American Bar Association as it relates to judicial nominees. Once again, we would like to assure you that the Senate Judiciary Committee will review and consider the information you have provided regarding Mr. O'Rourke should it schedule any action on his nomination.

In addition, as you know, the Committee does not rely solely on the information provided to it by these and other outside sources. Instead, the committee itself conducts its own thorough and independent investigation on each nominee named by the President. Only after completion of the committee's full investigation is a public hearing scheduled on a given nomination. At least one week following the hearing, the committee votes on the nomination -- with a full Senate vote occurring sometime after the committee's.

At this point, no hearings on any judicial nominees have been scheduled for the remaining weeks of this Congress. In particular, as you know, no hearing has been held or scheduled on the nomination of Mr. O'Rourke. As promised in Harriet Grant's May 22, 1992 letter to you, should the status of Mr. O'Rourke's nomination change, you will be informed promptly.

Ex "V"