



NINTH JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Box 70, Gedney Station  
White Plains, New York 10605-0070  
Tele: (914) 997-8105 / Fax: (914) 684-6554

By Fax and Mail  
212-558-3855

January 22, 1993

William E. Willis, Chairman  
ABA Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary  
Sullivan & Cromwell  
125 Broadway  
New York, New York 10004

RE: May 1992 Critique of the Ninth Judicial Committee

Dear Mr. Willis:

We are gratified by your letter of January 19th and encouraged to believe that the ABA Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary will meet its responsibilities in this matter, difficult as they may be. Those responsibilities include retraction of the "Qualified" rating given to Andrew O'Rourke.

We again offer our services to the Committee to present orally the benefits of our research so as to expedite their understanding of the significance of our findings. We would also be most pleased to discuss our recommendations based upon our experience, which could save the Committee a substantial amount of time and effort.

As you are aware from the Profile appearing at the end of our critique, our Director, Doris L. Sassower, has an extensive background in the field of judicial selection--going back to the start of her legal career when she worked for the late New Jersey Chief Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt, a former ABA President. In 1972, she was the first woman ever appointed to serve on the New York State Bar Association counterpart of your Committee and served in that capacity for eight years. Her ABA credentials include having addressed the National Conference of Bar Presidents in 1969, the first woman ever to do so, and, seven years later addressing that august body once again. In 1973, she became the first woman ABA Chair of the National Conference of Lawyers and Social Workers. It might be noted that when she sought to become the first woman Assembly delegate to the House


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of Delegates in 1980, she had the support of more than a dozen past Presidents of the ABA--including your law partner, Bob McCrate. In 1989, she was elected as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation--an honor, as you doubtless know, reserved for less than one-third of one percent of the practicing bar in each state.

We thus believe we are in a unique position to aid the Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary in our common cause.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER  
Coordinator, Ninth Judicial Committee

cc: J. Michael McWilliams, President, ABA  
Chairman Joseph Biden, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Irene R. Emsellem, ABA Staff Liaison