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BY FAX: 202-393-6889 6 pages

January 21, 1999

Mr. Steve Lash
Houston Chronicle
202-393-6880

RE: Impeachment complaint against Chief Justice William Rehnquist & the media-
unreported story about how the House Judiciary Committee handles the hundreds
of impeachment complaints it receives against federal judges

Dear Mr. Lash:

Enclosed is CJA's November 6, 1998 impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Rehnquist. As discussed, it is based on his *official* misconduct in a case which came before the Supreme Court in September 1998, on a petition for a writ of certiorari, as well as prior thereto when the case was brought to his attention in his capacity as head of the Judicial Conference.

The Supreme Court docket number of the cert petition is #98-106 -- and the caption is *Doris L. Sassower v. Hon Guy Mangano et al.*. The case is a civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. §1983 in which high-ranking New York State judges and the New York State Attorney General were sued for corruption¹.

As the impeachment complaint makes plain (at p. 3), the **rehearing petition** is an integral part. Among the documents in the record, you should start with it. Indeed, the appendix to the rehearing petition reprints the disqualification/disclosure application presented to the justices [RA-6] and the judicial misconduct complaint against them [RA-52].

As to the cert petition and supplemental brief, may I direct your attention to the following:

In the cert petition, the FIRST "Question Presented" is the supervisory and ethical duty of the Supreme Court and its justices. This is discussed at pp. 21-23, "*Reasons for Granting the Writ*" and pp. 23-26,

¹ The allegations of the federal complaint are reflected by CJA's \$20,000 public interest ad, "*Where Do You Go When Judges Break the Law?*" (The New York Times, 10/26/94, Op-Ed page; and New York Law Journal, 11/1/94, p. 9) -- reprinted in the appendix of the cert petition [A-269].

Point I: "*This Court's Power of Supervision is Mandated*" and "*This Court has a Duty to Make Disciplinary and Criminal Referrals*". Such pages detail that, absent Supreme Court review, there is NO remedy, within the Judicial Branch, for the corrupt conduct of the lower federal judiciary, demonstrated by the cert petition.

In the supplemental brief, pages 1-3 and 7-10 further underscore the mandatory duty of Supreme Court review -- demonstrating the complete breakdown of ALL checks on judicial misconduct, in the Legislative and Executive Branches, such that:

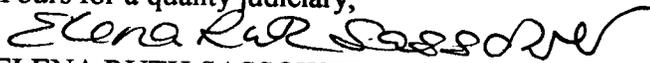
"the constitutional protection restricting federal judges' tenure in office to 'good behavior' does not exist because all avenues by which their official misconduct and abuse of office might be determined and impeachment initiated (U.S. Constitution, Article II, §4 and Article III, §1 [SA-1] are corrupted by political and personal self-interest. The consequence: federal judges who pervert, with impunity, the constitutional pledge to 'establish Justice', (Constitution, Preamble [SA-1]) and who use their judicial office for ulterior purposes." [supplemental brief, at p. 2]

In substantiation of the breakdown of Legislative and Executive checks, two submissions were "lodged" with the Clerk's office: (1) the documentary compendium to CJA's June 1998 statement to the House Judiciary Committee [printed at SA-17] and (2) the exhibits to our July 27, 1998 criminal complaint to the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section [printed at SA-47].

I would point out that CJA's FIVE-YEAR correspondence with the House Judiciary Committee, which is referred to in our press release, is part of the documentary compendium. That correspondence chronicles our "voyage of discovery" as to the true facts about the House Judiciary Committee -- and about 28 U.S.C. §372(c) -- concealed by the methodologically flawed and dishonest 1993 Report of the National Commission on Judicial Discipline. For an overview of what we discovered, may I recommend that you read CJA's published article, "*Without Merit: The Empty Promise of Judicial Discipline*" (The Long Term View, Vol 4. No. 1, summer 1997) -- which is reprinted in the appendix to the cert petition [A-207], as well as included in the documentary compendium to our June 1998 statement [R-5].

Upon request, I will promptly transmit to you copies of any and all of the submissions that were before the Court in *Sassower v. Mangano, et al.* (#98-106) -- all substantiating the November 6, 1999 impeachment complaint.

Yours for a quality judiciary,


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

Enclosure