CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY FAX: 518-434-6148 (10 pages) February 8, 2002

Jay Jochnowitz, Bureau Chief Albany Times Union

RE:

1.

Commission on Judicial Conduct – and its Powerful Electoral Consequences on Governor Pataki and Attorney General Spitzer

Dear Mr. Jochnowitz:

Following up my voice-mail message a short time ago, enclosed are my three letters to Editorial Page Editor, Howard Healy, culminating in today's letter, requesting that he transmit to you the appellate papers in my public interest lawsuit against the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct. These were the appellate papers that were in the possession of the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 20th of last year when it refused to allow me to testify in opposition to confirmation of Justice Wetzel's reappointment by the Governor to the Court of Claims. A copy of my June 19th coverletter to you at the time is enclosed.

As you know, Governor Pataki has made HUNDREDS of judicial appointments in the seven years he's been in office. The record of my public interest lawsuit against the Commission not only details the Governor's complicity in the *readily-verifiable* corruption of this important agency, but his manipulation and, indeed, corruption of the judicial appointments process at all levels – trial court, appellate court, Court of Appeals. The lawsuit, now winding its way to the Court of Appeals, is, therefore, an important election year story. Indeed, the case will rightfully end the re-election prospects of Attorney General Spitzer. This, because he is *personally* knowledgeable of the fraudulent defense tactics being employed by his office to defeat meritorious lawsuits against the Commission – including my lawsuit – and because he refuses to take *any* corrective steps either as to those tactics or as to the series of FIVE fraudulent judicial decisions of which the Commission, in three separate lawsuits, has been the beneficiary – and without which it would NOT have survived.

Please let me hear from you following your review.

Elena Runz