

## CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY FAX: 518-436-0130 (9 pages)

November 28, 2000

Jay Gallagher, Albany Bureau Chief  
Gannett  
150 State Street  
Albany, New York 12224

RE: Tomorrow's "BY INVITATION ONLY" Senate Judiciary Committee  
Hearing on Justice Graffeo's Confirmation to the NY Court of  
Appeals

Dear Jay:

It's time that the Fund for Modern Courts addressed the ugly REALITY of "merit selection" to New York's Court of Appeals – for which, 23 years ago, New Yorkers gave up their right to elect their highest State judges.

Enclosed, as requested, are CJA's two letters to the Fund, transmitting, respectively, CJA's October 16<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup> reports. For your purposes, it is the LAST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF EACH LETTER THAT ARE RELEVANT.

Regards.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

P.S. The phone number of Steven Zeidman, Executive Director of the Fund is 212-541-6741 x103. The phone number of Alan Rothstein, Counsel of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York is 212-382-6623. The phone number of Kathleen Mulligan Baxter, Counsel of the New York State Bar Association, is 518-463-3200.

P.S. (2) Enclosed, FYI, is the story you wrote about our opposition to Howard Levine's confirmation to the Court of Appeals – to which my mother referred, on the record, at the September 7, 1993 hearing. – Pages 74-76 are enclosed.