

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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By Fax: 240-536-4875 (11 pages)

By Mail

August 17, 2005

Jayson Blair
14369 Round Lick Lane, Suite B
Centreville, Virginia 20120-3362

RE: REBUILDING THE MASTERS' HOUSE

Dear Mr. Blair:

I hope you are well – and that you have not abandoned your talents as a writer and your desire to use those talents to contribute toward justice and the bettering of people's lives, as described by your book, Burning Down My Masters' House: My Life at *The New York Times*.

Nearly a year and a half ago, my stepfather, Eli Vigliano, and my mother, Doris L. Sassower, handed me a copy of your book, which you had inscribed. It read:

“March 7, 2004

To Elena Ruth Sassower & the Center for Judicial Accountability --

Thanks for taking on *The New York Times* long before I did. Please let me know anything I can do to help.

Always,”

I do not know what Eli and my mother told you about the Center for Judicial Accountability's long efforts to bring accountability to The New York Times – or if, prior thereto, you had read any of my correspondence with The Times pertaining to you. The first of that correspondence was my June 19, 2003 letter to Allan Siegal, and its continuation included my September 25, 2003 and October 13, 2003 letters to Bill Keller, to which you were an indicated recipient¹.

¹ These are all posted on our website, www.judgewatch.org. [See sidebar panels: “PRESS SUPPRESSION – *The New York Times*” and “DISRUPTION OF CONGRESS CASE – *Paper Trail to Jail*”].

I had hoped that you might be able to use those letters to counter the media's out-of-all-proportions, "holier than thou" assault on you, as they summarized documentary evidence showing that what you did was "peanuts" compared to the sustained and on-going "journalistic fraud" collusively engaged in by "seasoned reporters, their editors, upper management, and the editorial board" of The Times.

Given what was going on around you, I imagine that when those letters reached you, you were too distracted to read them or to focus on what they said. However, I hope that after you read my latest round of correspondence – most importantly, my yesterday's memo to Seth Mnookin -- you will recognize there is something you "can do to help" – something which simultaneously serves both the public interest and your own.

Mr. Mnookin gave a talk yesterday about his book, Hard News, formerly subtitled The Scandals at The New York Times and Their Meaning for American Media. He accepted my memo, with its accompanying evidentiary enclosures, as he was inscribing my paperback copy of his book. This followed upon my asking him whether he would be willing to examine documentary evidence rebutting his view that The Times is a "gold standard" of objective, high-quality journalism and that its first public editor, Daniel Okrent, had done a "great" job. Having orally responded in the affirmative, Mr. Mnookin, on his own initiative, took it upon himself to write – and to underline for further emphasis:

"To Elena –

I promise I'll examine the evidence –
thanks for coming.

Best,"

I trust you will be willing to examine the evidence also -- beginning with the evidentiary enclosures to my letter to Mr. Mnookin, which I will be mailing you today. After you do, I look forward to speaking with you – and to facilitating a dialogue, if not collaboration, between yourself and Mr. Mnookin as to how best to proceed with the monumental journalistic and political scandals such evidence establishes.



Enclosures: (1) CJA's August 16, 2005 memo to Seth Mnookin, with its covermemo to you, Howell Raines, Gerald Boyd, and Steven Brill
(2) CJA's August 16, 2005 covermemo to The New York Times

cc: Seth Mnookin
smnookin@gmail.com

March 7, 2004

To Elena Rotten Sussowen
of the Center for Judicial
Accountability -

Thanks for Sunday
on The New York Times
long before I did.
Please let me know
anything I can do to
help.

Always,
Jayran

valuable information."

—New York Post

one of the hardest working, most ambitious, and most of his generation. . . . [Hard News is] a gripping, fast-lookin has all the insider tick-tock of the story . . . and r. . . . A significant feat of nonfiction narrative writing."

—The New York Sun

le . . . One of the most inspiring stories about journalist's Men."

—The News Tribune (Tacoma, Washington)

HARD NEWS

To Elena.

I

promise I'll

examine

the evidence -

for

convicting.

best

