

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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BY FAX AND BY MAIL: 718-965-9016

April 19, 1996

Ms. Andrea Bernstein  
387 Third Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11215

Dear Ms. Bernstein:

Thanks for your prompt return call.

Enclosed is a copy of our April 18th letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which we sent, as well, to the Governor's Pataki's office and Senate Majority Leader Bruno--among others.

Our letter describes your excellent piece, "Pataki's Secrets" (p. 1, the last paragraph) and annexes a copy of it as Exhibit "C".

It is our hope that you will follow-up with an expose about how the Governor has "privatized" his selection of judges so as to make it virtually impossible for the public to know anything about or to contribute to the selection of our judges.

You may be interested to know that last January 24th New York Law Journal published a Letter to the Editor from us "No Justification for Process's Secrecy" on the subject of Mayor Giuliani's behind-closed-doors judicial selection. (copy to be sent by mail). That sham process is "open"--by comparison to what the Governor has been doing with more powerful judgships.

Our April 18th letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee is an attempt to open the process--by challenging Judge Juanita Bing Newton to publicly account for the dispositive evidence that the Commission on Judicial Conduct, on which she sits as a member, is not just dysfunctional, but corrupt. (See p. 3).

As to that dispositive evidence, it is succinctly described by our August 14, 1995 Letter to the Editor, "Commission Abandons Investigative Mandate", also published in the New York Law Journal--which is Exhibit "D" to our April 18th letter.

In the context of the enormous public interest about the Commission on Judicial Conduct--generated by Governor Pataki's referral to it of Judge Duckman--and the Commission's imminently-expected determination--this is not only a dynamite story, but an extraordinarily opportune one (quite apart from "Law Day"--May 1st).

Andrea Bernstein

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Looking forward to a close collaboration.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

*Elena*

ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

Enclosures

P.S.(1) "Investigative Reports" on A & E cable aired a documentary about bad judges last Saturday night--in which we were interviewed. It will be repeated tomorrow from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

P.S.(2) In the context of the Judge Duckman case and the Commission on Judicial Conduct, we believe you will be extremely excited by our February 20th and February 27th letters to Mayor Giuliani--copies of which were sent to Governor Pataki. So as not to overload your fax, they will be transmitted by mail.