

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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16 pages

April 25, 1996

Mr. Jesse Drucker  
The New York Observer  
54 East 64th Street  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Mr. Drucker:

It was a pleasure meeting you yesterday at the Project Censored awards ceremony.

As requested, I am faxing, without the accompanying exhibits, three letters: two letters to Mayor Giuliani, dated February 20th and February 27th, and our April 18th letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Should you wish the exhibits--or hard copies of the letters--let me know and I will send them to you.

As discussed, our February 27th letter to Mayor Giuliani accused him of perpetrating a hoax in blaming Judge Duckman for Galina Komar's death--based on our reading of the transcripts of the bail hearing of Benito Oliver.

It was also an indictment of the press, which--although in possession of the court transcripts for days at that point--had nonetheless followed lock-step behind the Mayor, reporting uncritically his selected excerpts. Perhaps for this reason, no press report appeared, anywhere, about our forceful citizen challenge to the Mayor--which we sent, as well, to the Governor and Brooklyn District Attorney.

Even Joyce Purnick and Jim Dwyer, whose sympathetic stories appeared in the Times and the News on February 28th, the day after our letter was faxed to the Mayor, were uninterested in any follow-up. This might well be because we had accomplished, merely from reading the court transcripts, what these two skilled reporters had had to sit down with Judge Duckman to understand, namely, that there were problems in the handling of the case by the Brooklyn District Attorney's office.

I might note that when I telephoned Joyce Purnick on February 28th to tell her about our letter to the Mayor--she already had been faxed a copy of it by Ron Russo, Judge Duckman's attorney.

Even more startling, there has been no press report of our observation--appearing at page 4 of our letter--that motivating the campaign by the Mayor, Governor, and Brooklyn District

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Attorney against Judge Duckman was the Judge's decision to suppress evidence in a criminal case--a decision which made the front-page of the New York Law Journal just a week before Galina Komar's death. As you know, during this very period, the Mayor and Governor were engaging in a tirade against Federal Judge Harold Baer for tossing out evidence in a criminal case.

As to our February 20th letter to the Mayor, we have also received no press coverage. That letter pointed out that if the Mayor was so concerned about protecting the public from unfit judges, he should not be focusing on Judge Duckman, but on the Commission on Judicial Conduct. Our letter described the Commission as corrupt and transmitted documentary proof in support of a request that the Mayor refer the Commission for criminal investigation.

Since that letter--copies of which we provided to the four major New York dailies--our repeated entreaties that they verify such readily-verifiable documentary proof of the Commission's corruption has fallen on deaf ears.

Finally, as to our April 18th letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which incorporates the Times Op-Ed piece of your colleague at the Observer, Andrea Bernstein--it not only exposes the closed process by which the Governor has been making his judicial appointments, but challenges Judge Juanita Bing Newton to publicly account for the dispositive evidence--heretofore ignored by the politicians and media--that the Commission on Judicial Conduct, on which she sits as a member, is corrupt. As to that corruption, we have a breathtaking correspondence with a "who's who" list of government leaders and agencies.

Our three enclosed letters are merely the "tip of the iceberg". There is a prize-winning expose waiting to be written about how political forces have manipulated and corrupted the processes of judicial selection and discipline in this State, and beyond.

We would hope that you and Ms. Bernstein might consider working in collaboration on such expose. A copy of my April 19th letter to her is enclosed.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

**Enclosures**

cc: Andrea Bernstein (By Fax: 718-965-9016)

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

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