

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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By Fax and Mail: 19 pages
212-556-3717

October 10, 1996

Mr. Jan Hoffman
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

RE: Disclosure of Your Possible Conflict of Interest

Dear Ms. Hoffman:

This letter follows up our four previous written communications to you and Ms. Purnick, dated August 27th, September 16th, September 20th, and October 1st--to which we have received no response whatever.

Consequently, and as previously indicated, we are preparing a complaint to your superiors at The Times regarding your inexplicable unprofessional and deliberately "black-balling" behavior.

In formulating our complaint, it occurs to us that you may be related to Milton Hoffman, the Senior Editor of Gannett Suburban Newspapers.

Mr. Hoffman, who for years and years has reported on politics for Gannett, is a close and long-time friend of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Fredman, a former leader of the Westchester County Democratic Party. Justice Fredman's perversion of his judicial office for ulterior purposes was described in my mother's October 24, 1991 letter to Governor Cuomo, which called upon him to appoint a special prosecutor. We provided many copies of that letter to The Times. For your convenience, yet another copy is enclosed.

In that letter, Justice Fredman is referred to as the "architect" of the three-year judge-trading cross-endorsement Deal, which was implemented at judicial nominating conventions which violated the Election Law.

Mr. Hoffman attended the 1989 Democratic Judicial Nominating Convention that nominated Justice Fredman. Both that convention--and the one in 1990--were conducted without a quorum. To mask that fact, they were each held in rooms too small for the prescribed numbers of delegates and alternates and each dispensed

October 10, 1996

with calling the roll. Indeed, Mr. Hoffman's attendance at the illegally-conducted 1989 Democratic Judicial Nominating Convention was noted in one of the affidavits supporting the petition in the 1990 Election Law challenge, Castracan v. Colavita, to which my mother was the pro bono counsel.

Our ad "Where Do You Go When Judges Break the Law?"--published on the Op-Ed page of the October 26, 1994 New York Times at a cost to us of \$16,770--described the judge-trading Deal, the illegal judicial nominating conventions, and my mother's letter to Governor Cuomo.

Because we like to be fair and honest in everything we do--which is more than can be said of Times reporters and editors--we would not wish to suggest to your superiors that your deliberate "black-balling" conduct has been motivated by an undisclosed familial relationship with Milt Hoffman if, in fact, no such relationship exists.

We, therefore, request your prompt response as to whether you are related to Mr. Hoffman or friendly with him or any other person, making it impossible for you to responsibly discharge your professional duties. In that way, our complaint may be as fair and accurate as possible. This is plainly in the interest of all concerned.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosure: (a) 10/24/91 letter to Governor Cuomo
(b) 10/26/96 NYT Op-Ed ad "Where Do You Go When Judges Break the Law"

cc: Joyce Purnick