

# CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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BY FAX: 212-608-1240 (5 pages)

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Mr. David Rohde/The New York Times

RE: My unresponded-to May 18<sup>th</sup> letter to you

Dear David:

Following up my voice mail message to you a short while ago, I have been waiting to hear from you for more than two weeks since our May 16<sup>th</sup> phone conversation and my May 18<sup>th</sup> letter. For your convenience, a copy of that May 18<sup>th</sup> letter is enclosed so that you can belatedly respond to it.

In view of today's front-page story, "*Fierce Campaigns Signal a New Era for State Courts*", using examples from states which elect judges to their highest courts, your editors at the Times should be moving forward with CJA's story proposal, presented to you repeatedly over many, many months, to examine New York's experience in the nearly quarter of a century since voters approved a constitutional amendment switching from election to "merit selection" appointment of judges to our highest state court. This would include examining the serious questions that CJA has been raising about the integrity of the Commission on Judicial Nomination's closed-door "screening" – which right now is "screening" applicants to fill the Court of Appeals vacancy that will be created by Judge Bellacosa's departure on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please advise, without further delay, to when you will be arranging a meeting at which I can sit down with your editors as to this – and other -- story proposals.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosure