

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

P.O. Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Tel. (914) 421-1200
Fax (914) 428-4994

E-Mail: judgewatch@aol.com
Website: www.judgewatch.org

Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY HAND

December 1, 2003

Daniel Okrent, Public Editor/Ombudsman
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

RE: Bringing Long-Overdue Accountability and Responsiveness to The Times

Dear Mr. Okrent,

On this, your first day as The Times' first public editor/ombudsman, we welcome you to your new job. You are so needed.

Enclosed are CJA's September 25th, October 13th, and November 1st letters to Executive Editor Bill Keller, to which we have received NO response from him or anyone else at The Times – even to the limited extent of the confirmation requested by our November 1st letter that they would be forwarded to you for “immediate attention”.

Please advise whether, in fact, Mr. Keller did forward them to you. Please also advise whether Mr. Keller also forwarded to you – or whether you are able to now obtain -- CJA's substantiating past correspondence and complaints to The Times – most particularly, our comprehensive October 21, 1996 complaint and December 2, 1996 supplement, and our February 12, 1998 comprehensive complaint, with its July 8, 1998 follow-up. If not, we will promptly duplicate them for you.

We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary
and responsible journalism,



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

cc: Bill Keller, Executive Editor