

**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: [judgwatch@aol.com](mailto:judgwatch@aol.com)  
Website: [www.judgwatch.org](http://www.judgwatch.org)*

*Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator*

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December 30, 2005

Solomon B. Watson, IV, Senior Vice President & General Counsel  
The New York Times Company  
229 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10036

RE: Securing appropriate review by The New York Times Company  
Legal Department

Dear Mr. Watson:

I have received no response from Assistant General Counsel George Freeman to my December 14<sup>th</sup> and December 22<sup>nd</sup> letters to him – each encaptioned “Securing appropriate review by The New York Times Legal Department” and each indicating you as a recipient. Consequently, I request your supervisory oversight, both as head of The New York Times Company Legal Department and as the Company’s Senior Vice President.

For your convenience, a duplicate copy of my full correspondence with Mr. Freeman, which I previously supplied you, is enclosed. Please advise within a week’s time as to whether you endorse Mr. Freeman’s December 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to me – and respond to my December 14<sup>th</sup> letter’s underlined informational requests.

Additionally, please remove the ambiguity in Mr. Freeman’s December 2<sup>nd</sup> letter by directly answering the question posed by my initial November 30<sup>th</sup> letter to him as to whether other counsel at The New York Times Company Legal Department were – like him -- unaware of my July 29, 2005 letter to Mr. Keller and subsequent September 26, 2005 complaint to Mr. Calame – at least prior to my November 1<sup>st</sup> fax to the Legal Department and subsequent phone conversation with Counsel David McCraw.

Finally, Mr. Freeman’s December 2<sup>nd</sup> letter – while professing that “The Times has not paid a dollar in damages in libel cases (or settled any libel cases for money) since well before libel law was constitutionalized in the New York Times v. Sullivan case...in 1964” – overlooks that libel lawsuits burden New York Times Company shareholders with “tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars in legal fees” – a fact expressly identified by my November 30<sup>th</sup> letter.

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Under such circumstances, New York Times Company shareholders, such as myself, reasonably expect that the Company's Legal Department will protect their interests by taking appropriate, good-faith steps to avert lawsuits – especially those whose “attendant negative publicity...could cause the value of New York Times Company stock to tumble”. As yet, I see no evidence of any such steps being taken with regard to my serious and substantial July 29, 2005 letter to Mr. Keller and September 26, 2005 complaint to Mr. Calame.

I thank you in advance for your anticipated professional attention to this matter, consistent with the duties and undivided loyalties you owe to the shareholders.

Yours for a quality judiciary  
and responsible journalism,



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

**Enclosures:**

- (1) my November 30, 2005 letter to Mr. Freeman
- (2) Mr. Freeman's December 2, 2005 letter to me
- (3) my December 14, 2005 letter to Mr. Freeman
- (4) my December 22, 2005 letter to Mr. Freeman

cc: George Freeman, Assistant General Counsel  
(by e-mail: freemang@nytimes.com)