

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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

Tel. (914) 421-1200 E-Mail: [judgewatch@aol.com](mailto:judgewatch@aol.com)  
Fax (914) 684-6554 Web site: <http://www.judgewatch.org>

By Fax: 212-556-3690  
By Hand

November 18, 1996

Michael Oreskes, Metropolitan Editor  
The New York Times  
229 West 43rd Street  
New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Oreskes:

Enclosed is a copy of our Letter to the Editor--the lead Letter in Saturday's Times--"On Choosing Judges, Pataki Creates Problems".

There's a big story here, requiring immediate follow-up by the Times Metro Desk with, among others, Michael Finnegan and his boss, Governor Pataki.

Indeed, omitted, for space reasons, from the printed version of our Letter to the Editor, was the penultimate paragraph, which included the following sentence:

"...We have also demonstrated that the Governor's temporary judicial screening committee, if it does exist, is controlled by the Governor, via Mr. Finnegan, who rigs its ratings by withholding from the committee information adverse to the politically-connected candidates it reviews."

We first made this explosive charge--for which we provided substantiating proof--in a June 11, 1996 letter to the Senators of the New York State Senate. We transmitted a copy of that letter to Mr. Finnegan under a June 12, 1996 coverletter to him requesting a response on behalf of the Governor. He has not responded--just as he has not responded to our previous letters to him, seeking information about the Temporary Judicial Screening Committee and inquiring as to why it has not been superseded by Executive Order #10 establishing State, Department, and County judicial screening committees.

We trust Mr. Finnegan and the Governor will be more forthcoming if The Times presses them for answers. Therefore, by copy of this letter, we are asking the Letters Department to forward you the aforesaid correspondence which, unsolicited, we provided it last Thursday when we transmitted the hard-copy of our Letter to the Editor.

EX "D-1"

Mr. Michael Oreskes

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You should know that it took the Times Letters Department less than an hour after we faxed it our Letter last Wednesday to recognize its importance and notify us that it was interested in publishing it. It should not take the Times Metro Desk substantially longer to assign a reporter to follow-up this story. However, in appreciation to the Times Letters Department, we will give the Metro Desk two days to notify us of its interest in follow-up.

After that, we will turn to other media for coverage of this dynamite story about how Governor Pataki--aided and abetted by the State Senate--has perverted the process by which state judges are appointed.

FYI, an informational brochure about our citizens organization is enclosed.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures

cc: Letters to the Editor