

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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

Tel. (914) 421-1200
Fax (914) 684-6554

E-Mail: judgewatch@aol.com
Web site: <http://www.judgewatch.org>

By Hand

November 14, 1996

Letters to the Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

ATT: Ms. Inell Willis

Dear Ms. Willis:

Thank you for your prompt telephone call yesterday morning informing us that our faxed Letter to the Editor was being considered for publication. We look forward to speaking with Mr. George Gustines, who you indicated would be calling us later today.

Because of the profoundly serious nature of what our Letter describes, we enclose the following substantiating materials:

- (a) our April 29, 1996 letter to Mr. Finnegan, detailing our repeated requests to obtain information about the Governor's temporary judicial screening committee and annexing, as Exhibit "E", unimplemented Executive Order 10 establishing State, Department, and County judicial screening committees
- (b) our June 12, 1996 letter to Mr. Finnegan, enclosing our June 11, 1996 letter to the Senators of the New York State Senate

Also enclosed is a copy of our April 24, 1996 letter requesting to meet with Governor Pataki to present him with the petition signatures of "thousands of New Yorkers".

Although each of the foregoing letters was sent certified mail, return receipt, we received no response to any of them. Additionally, in writing our Letter to the Editor, we verified that there has been no implementation of Executive Order 10 and that the temporary judicial screening committee, about which there is no publicly available information, still has no telephone number except through Mr. Finnegan.

EX "E-2"

Ms. Inell Willis

Page Two

November 14, 1996

FYI, we enclose a copy of CJA's informational brochure containing, as inserts, reprints of our two Letters to the Editor, published in the New York Law Journal, "Commission Abandons Investigative Mandate" (8/14/95) and "No Justification for Process's Secrecy" (1/24/96), as well as of our New York Times Op-Ed ad "Where Do You Go When Judges Break the Law?" (10/26/94).

We also enclose a "hard copy" of the Times' publication of our Letter to the Editor, "Untrustworthy Ratings?", which appeared on July 17, 1992.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

(914) 421-1200 • Fax (914) 684-6554

E-Mail: probono@delphi.com

Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605

By Fax: 518-486-9652

By Certified Mail/RRR: P-608-518-937

April 29, 1996

Michael Finnegan, Counsel to the Governor
Executive Chamber, The Capitol
Room 241
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Mr. Finnegan:

This letter memorializes our on-going "Twilight Zone" experience as we struggle to obtain what should be readily-available information about how Governor Pataki makes his judicial appointments.

After months of unsuccessful attempts via your office at the Executive Chamber of the Capitol in Albany to find out the names of the members of the Governor's Temporary Judicial Screening Committee--of which you are a member--we ventured on an alternative approach.

On Friday, April 26th, I called the Communications Office of the Office of Court Administration (212-417-5900), requesting information about the Governor's Department Judicial Screening Committees for the four judicial departments. I was told that for such information I would have to speak with the Governor's Press Office and was given the telephone number (212-681-4580).

I then called the Governor's Press Office. I was routed around four or five times--each time repeating my request for information about the Governor's judicial screening committees. Eventually, the individuals to whom my call was routed answered the telephone with the identifying introduction, "Executive Chamber" and "Michael Finnegan's office".

Ultimately, a woman on the other end of the phone asked me my name. After momentarily putting me on hold, she stated that the person I needed to speak with was "out of the office" and "very busy". She then falsely claimed that she had previously told me to put my request in writing. I asked the woman if she was Peggy, a secretary with whom I had spoken on April 11th, April 15th, and April 16th, when I left phone messages for a Nan Weiner. She confirmed she was.

April 29, 1996

After I vigorously denied that Peggy had ever told me anything but that Ms. Weiner would be returning my phone calls, Peggy gave me the address to which to send my written requests (the same as is indicated by this letter).

I then asked Peggy the name of the person to whom I was to address my communications. Peggy's memorable response was "I don't have her name. She only calls in for messages". Peggy maintained this ludicrous position as I tried to contain my laughter.

When I asked Peggy whether Ms. Weiner, who on my prior three calls she had refused to identify except as an "assistant to the Governor," was the person to whom I should address my written requests, Peggy enigmatically acknowledged that Ms. Weiner was "part of this". When I asked who else was "part of this", Peggy claimed she did not know.

So that the record is clear, we have spent months just trying to find out who in the Governor's office works on judicial appointments. Everyone in the Governor's office claims to be unable to give us this basic information. As further demonstrative of the outlandishness of this situation, I have spoken to Susan Meier, who has claimed that her involvement in judicial appointments ended this past January. Logically, this should mean that Ms. Meier would, at least, be able to tell us who sits on the Governor's Temporary Judicial Screening Committee, established by Executive Order in April of last year (Exhibit "F"). However, Ms. Meier has claimed that she does not know who its members are and that she does not know who has replaced her in handling judicial screening issues for the Governor.

As to placing our requests for information in writing, although no one in the Governor's office ever told us to do so, we have consistently set them forth in writing. This may be seen from our repeatedly faxed January 10, 1996 letter (Exhibit "A"), resent by mail under a March 29, 1996 letter (Exhibit "B-1"), then itself resent under a April 24, 1996 letter (Exhibit "B-2").

The aforesaid three telephone messages for Ms. Weiner which I left with Peggy--and which neither Ms. Weiner nor anyone on her behalf returned--were not for the purpose of obtaining information about the Governor's Temporary Judicial Screening Committee. Rather, they were to provide information to the Commission bearing adversely upon the qualifications of Juanita Bing Newton. According to an April 11th squib in the New York Law Journal, the Temporary Judicial Screening Committee was that day interviewing Judge Newton for reappointment by the Governor to the Court of Claims.

Having received no return call from Ms. Weiner and fearing that the Governor's office might "pull a fast one"--with Senate confirmation scheduled the day following the Governor's appointment so that by the time we would read about the nomination in the newspaper, the confirmation would already be over--as was the case, for instance, with the Governor's appointment last year of Jonathan Lippman to the Court of Claims (Exhibit "C")--we contacted the Senate Judiciary Committee to notify it of our opposition to Judge Newton. A copy of our April 18, 1996 letter to David Gruenberg, counsel to that Committee, confirming his assurance to us that we would be immediately notified should the Governor reappoint Judge Newton, was sent to you (Exhibit "D"). Consequently, that, too, is already in writing.

So that there is no mistake about the information we are currently seeking, this letter, therefore, constitutes our explicit written request for information as to Governor Pataki's Executive Orders 10 and 11 relating to the establishment of judicial screening committees. Copies of those Executive Orders are annexed hereto as Exhibits "E" and "F", respectively. What committees are, in fact, operational and who are their members?

We understand that the Temporary Judicial Screening Committee, set up by Executive Order 11 (Exhibit "F"), has not yet been superseded by a State Judicial Screening Committee, as contemplated by ¶4 of that Order. What is the reason for this?

Under Executive Order 10, the State Judicial Screening Committee is charged with the duty to:

"promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to govern its proceedings and those of the Departmental and County Judicial Screening Committees established by this Order. The rules and regulations shall include standards and procedures for ensuring, to the extent possible, uniformity of criteria for evaluation the qualifications of candidates for appointment or designation to judicial office throughout the State." (Exhibit "E", p. 2)

If the State Judicial Screening Committee has not been set up, what are the rules and regulations under which the Temporary Judicial Screening Committee and the Departmental and County Judicial Screening Committees have been operating?

April 29, 1996

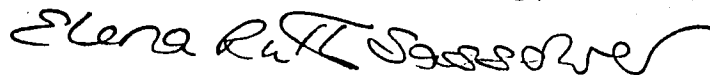
Inasmuch as the Governor's Executive Orders identify counsel to the Governor as being both a member of the Temporary and a would-be member of the State Judicial Screening Committee, we trust you will readily be able to respond with such information.

Finally, we note that Executive Order 11 charges the "Office of Counsel to the Governor" with the duty of making

"available to the [Temporary Judicial Screening] committee sufficient staff and resources to enable the committee to carry out properly its responsibilities including adequate investigations into all matters relevant to the qualifications of candidates for appointment to judicial office" (Exhibit "F", ¶3).

Since it is now many months that we have been endeavoring, without success, to know who in the Governor's office functions as liaison to the Temporary Judicial Screening Committee--and more than two and a half weeks since we left the first of our unreturned telephone messages for Ms. Weiner, advising that we had adverse information to present to the Screening Committee about Judge Newton's qualifications, we request that you identify what "staff and resources" you have made available to the Committee to permit it to meet its proclaimed purpose of "ensur[ing] that judicial officer appointees are of the highest quality" (Exhibit "F", title).

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures

cc: Senate Judiciary Committee
David Gruenberg, counsel
Committee to Encourage Judicial Service of the Association
of the Bar of the City of New York
Sidney H. Asch, Chairman
Fund for Modern Courts
Gary Brown, Executive Director
New York media

TIME: 04/29/1996 14:30
 NAME:
 FAX: 9146846554
 TEL:

DATE, TIME	04/29 14:27
FAX NO./NAME	15184869652
DURATION	00:02:50
PAGE(S)	05
RESULT	OK
MODE	STANDARD

P-608 518 937

RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL

NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED
 NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL
 (See Reverse)

Sent to: *Michael Finnegan*
Carol to J.W. Pataki
 Street and No.: *Executive Chamber*
Cap. Bldg, Room 241
 P.O. Office and ZIP Code: *Albany, NY 12224*
 Postage: *170*
 Certified Fee: *110*
 Restricted Delivery Fee: *110*
 Return Receipt showing to and Address of Delivery: *390*
 Postmark Date: *APR 30 1996*

U.S.G.P.O. 15358
 GEDNEY STATION
 WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605-9988

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SENDER:

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- Complete items 3, 4a, and 4b.
- Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.
- Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.
- Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.
- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

- Addressee's Address
- Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:

Michael Finnegan
Carol to J.W. Pataki
Exec. Chamber
Re Cap. Bldg
Room 241
Albany, NY 12224

4a. Article Number

P608 518 937

4b. Service Type

- Registered
- Express Mail
- Return Receipt for Merchandise
- Certified
- Insured
- COD

7. Date of Delivery

5-2-96

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

5. Received By: (Print Name)

Jim Van der Horst

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)

Jim Van der Horst

PS Form 3811, December 1994

Domestic Return Receipt

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

(914) 421-1200 • Fax (914) 684-6554

2/12/96 fax: 486-9652

Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605

To: Kathleen Sanvidge
Per DW request by phone,
please direct this to
Mr. Finnegan
By Fax: 518-474-8099
5 pages
for
response.
Thanks
ERS

1/29/96
To: Priscilla Aboudreau
As discussed -
our repeated requests
for this information -
beginning in December
in phone conversations
with Brian Maloney -
have gotten us nowhere.
Direct insight by
Mr Finnegan w/in order.
Thanks!

January 10, 1996

Susan Meier, Legislative Assistant
Office of the Governor
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Ms. Meier:

① As discussed a short while ago by phone, please confirm for us whether Andrew O'Rourke is being considered for appointment to a judgeship. If "confidentiality" prevents you from doing so, we would appreciate a letter to that effect.

② Also, we request a list of the names of the members of the Temporary Judicial Screening Committee, established by Governor Pataki's Executive Order #11.

Finally, I enclose a copy of the Center's brochure--as well as our New York Times' Op-Ed ad, "Where Do You Go When Judges Break the Law" and our New York Law Journal letter to the editor, "Commission Abandons Investigative Mandate". As may be seen from those newspaper items, our judicial process has been corrupted by self-interested judges who have jettisoned fundamental legal standards. We will be sending a letter to the Governor on that subject, enclosing petitions signed by over 1,000 citizens of this State for appointment of an investigatory commission.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

Elena Ruth Sassower

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

Enclosures

1/16/96

To: Linda DiBernardo

* see
paragraphs
1 + 2

per DW telephone conversation
the enclosed is faxed relevant to
assist Mr. Finnegan in obtaining for
us the basic information we have
been endeavoring unsuccessfully to procure.

Ex "A"

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

(914) 421-1200 • Fax (914) 684-6554
E-Mail: probono@delphi.com

Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605

By Fax: 518-486-9652 (3 pages)
By Certified Mail/RRR: P-624-546-598

March 29, 1996

Governor George Pataki
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

ATT: Michael Finnegan, Counsel

Dear Mr. Finnegan:

This confirms our telephone request to your office today for a copy of the "Report on the Allegations Against Judge Duckman". That Report is referred to in Governor Pataki's Letter to the Editor, published in the New York Law Journal on March 18, 1996. A copy is enclosed, for your convenience.

In that letter, the Governor states:

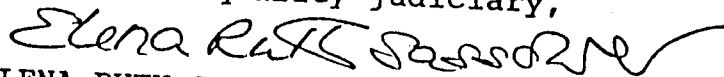
"I can only wonder how many of those who endorsed the resolution took the time to read the Report on the Allegations Against Judge Duckman that accompanied the referral [to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct]. Had they done so, they would have appreciated the basis for the referral..."

In addition to the "Report on the Allegations Against Judge Duckman", we would appreciate a copy of the "referral" itself.

May we also take this opportunity to alert you to the fact that we have still received no response from your office to our repeated requests--spanning the past several months--for specific information about the Governor's judicial screening procedures, and his consideration of a particular candidate. A copy of our repeatedly-faxed letter request is enclosed.

Your prompt attention to the foregoing would be greatly appreciated.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures

Ex "B-1"

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME: 01/03/1994 02:56
 NAME:
 FAX: 9146846554
 TEL:

DATE, TIME
 FAX NO./NAME
 DURATION
 PAGE(S)
 RESULT
 MODE

3/29/96
 01/03 02:54
 15184869652
 00:01:54
 03
 OK
 STANDARD

2:30 PM

P 624 546 598
 RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL

NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED
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(See Reverse)

Sent to *Gov. George Pataki
 Executive Chamber
 State Capitol*
 Street and No. *State Capitol*

P.O. State and ZIP Code
Albany NY 12224

Postage
1.50

Certified Fee
1.00

Special Delivery Fee
0.00

Restricted Delivery Fee
0.00

Return Receipt Showing to whom and Date Delivered
1/10

Return receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery

TOTAL Postage and Fees
2.75

Postmark or Date
2-7-94

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- Complete items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.
- Complete items 3, 4a, and 4b.
- Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.
- Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.
- Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.
- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

- 1. Addressee's Address
- 2. Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:

*Gov. George Pataki
 Executive Chamber
 State Capitol
 Albany, NY 12224
 Attn: Michael Finnegan
 Chief*

4a. Article Number:

P 624 546 598

4b. Service Type

- Registered
- Express Mail
- Return Receipt for Merchandise
- Certified
- Insured
- COD

7. Date of Delivery

2-7-94

5. Received By: (Print Name)

6. Signature (Addressee or Agent)

X [Signature]

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

|||||

PS Form 3811, December 1994

Domestic Return Receipt

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Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

PSN 3800, Feb. 1992

* U.S.G.P.O. 1993-403-517

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

(914) 421-1200 • Fax (914) 684-6554

E-Mail: probono@delphi.com

Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605

By Fax: 518-486-9652 (3 pages)
By Certified Mail/RRR: P 801 449 981

April 24, 1996

Governor George Pataki
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

ATT: Michael Finnegan, Counsel

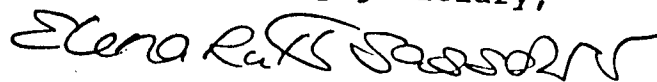
Dear Mr. Finnegan:

We understand from today's New York Law Journal that yesterday the Governor sent the Commission on Judicial Conduct a letter requesting it to reconsider its decision not to pursue charges against Judge Duckman based on the Galina Komar case (Exhibit "A"). We request a copy of that letter.

We also reiterate our telephone and letter request, made more than three weeks ago, for a copy of the Governor's "referral" to the Commission and its accompanying "Report on the Allegations Against Judge Duckman". For your convenience, a copy of our March 29, 1996 letter request is enclosed (Exhibit "B").

Your prompt attention would be greatly appreciated.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures

EX "B-2"

P 801 449 983

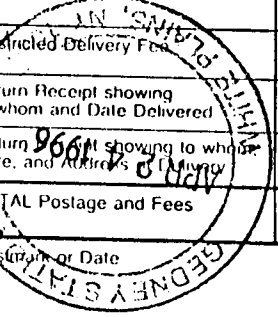
RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL

NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED
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(See Reverse)

Sent to	707 State Road Michael Fineman
Street and No.	Executive Center
P.O., State and ZIP Code	Albany NY 12244
Postage	\$ 32
Certified Fee	1.0
Special Delivery Fee	
Restricted Delivery Fee	
Return Receipt showing to whom and Date Delivered	1.0
Return Receipt showing to whom Date, and Address of Delivery	9661 6 11/17
TOTAL Postage and Fees	\$ 29.2
Postmark or Date	

PS Form 3800, June 1985



N9LV

6/29/95

TODAY'S

Update

Jonathan Lippman, deputy chief administrator of the courts for the past six years, was nominated to a Court of Claims judgeship by Governor Pataki yesterday. The State Senate is scheduled to act on his confirmation today, the last day of the legis-



lative session. Mr. Lippman, 50, is expected to remain in his post at the Office of Court Administration with the new title deputy chief administrative judge. The Governor moved to fill three other vacancies, naming Nassau County Court Judge John Dunne to Supreme Court; Mineola attorney Frank Gulotta to Nassau County Court, and Schoharie County Court Judge Dan Lamont to the Court of Claims.

EX "C"

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

(914) 421-1200 • Fax (914) 684-6554

E-Mail: probono@delphi.com

Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605

By Certified Mail/RRR: P-801-449-993

April 18, 1996

David Gruenberg, Counsel
Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator James J. Lack, Chairman
Room 413, The Capitol
Albany, New York 12247

RE: Opposition to Senate Confirmation of Judge Newton
Member, New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct

Dear Mr. Gruenberg:

This confirms our telephone conversation yesterday in which I notified you of the Center's intention to oppose Senate confirmation of Juanita Bing Newton--should Governor Pataki reappoint her to the Court of Claims. As hereinafter set forth, the basis for our opposition is Judge Bing's self-serving betrayal of the public trust in her capacity as a judicial member of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Although last week's New York Law Journal reported that Ms. Newton was being interviewed by Governor Pataki's temporary judicial screening commission (Exhibit "A"), we have been unable to reach the Governor's temporary judicial screening commission directly. This is because the Governor's office has refused to provide us with any information as to how to do so.

Indeed, it is now four months that we have been endeavoring, without success, to obtain the names of the members of the temporary judicial screening commission from the Governor's office. The Governor's office has not only refused to provide us with such basic information--as may be seen from the enclosed repeatedly faxed letter request (Exhibits "B-1", "B-2")--it varyingly pretends that it has no liaison to the temporary judicial screening commission who can provide us with procedural information as to how the Governor's temporary judicial screening commission operates.

Between the non-information and misinformation we have received from the Governor's office over the past many months, it would seem that the Governor wants to make it as difficult as possible for the public to contribute anything to his behind-closed-doors selection of judges. Such private conduct of government business is consistent with what was reported by Andrea Bernstein in her piece "Pataki's Secrets" that appeared on the Op-Ed page of the March 23, 1996 New York Times (Exhibit "C").

EX "D"

April 18, 1996

You told me you also had no information about the membership and rules and procedures of the Governor's temporary judicial screening commission. Nor could you explain why Governor Pataki, now in his second year in office, has not yet established a permanent judicial screening commission.

We believe it is absolutely essential that the public--as well as the Senate Judiciary Committee--have such information. Therefore, we are sending a copy of this letter to Michael Finnegan, the Governor's counsel, so that he can enlighten both you and us on the subject.

You did tell me that the Governor has made no judicial nominations since last June. We would greatly appreciate your written confirmation of that fact, as well as information as to:

- (1) how many judicial nominations were made by the Governor up until that time;
- (2) their names;
- (3) the dates on which they were nominated;
- (4) the dates on which the nominees were confirmed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and full Senate.

Although you assured me that you would contact us immediately should Governor Pataki reappoint Judge Newton to the Court of Claims, we would like to provide you with a bit more specificity--in the interim--as to the serious and substantial nature of our opposition to Judge Newton.

In her capacity as a judicial member of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct, Judge Newton has not protected the public from unfit judges--as has been her duty to do. Rather, she has used her position as Commissioner to protect high-ranking, politically-connected judges from the consequences of their official misconduct. She has done this by permitting fully documented complaints against them--including complaints of heinous criminal acts--to be summarily dismissed. Such summary dismissals, without any determination by the Commission that the complaints facially lack merit (because indeed they do not), violate the Commission's explicit statutory investigative duty under Judiciary Law §44.1.

Last year, we brought an Article 78 proceeding against the Commission on Judicial Conduct. Included among the relief was a request for referral to the Governor so that a special prosecutor might be appointed to investigate the Commission's complicity in high-level judicial corruption, demonstrated by its aforesaid contrary-to law dismissal of documented complaints of

criminal conduct by powerful judges.

Our Article 78 challenge was so devastating that the only way the Commission on Judicial Conduct could survive it was by engaging in litigation misconduct before a Supreme Court Justice who, by a fraudulent decision of dismissal, would dump the case. This is proven by the litigation file--a copy of which is in the possession of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, together with voluminous correspondence from us on the subject.

As reflected by that correspondence, Judge Newton, as a member of the Commission on Judicial Conduct, has been on notice of the Commission's litigation misconduct in the Article 78 proceeding and of the fraudulent dismissal--of which it is the beneficiary. Indeed, on August 14, 1995, the New York Law Journal, published our Letter to the Editor "Commission Abandons Investigative Mandate", which publicly proclaimed that the dismissal was an insupportable fraud (Exhibit "D")--a charge the Commissioners have not denied, let alone controverted.

Yet, Judge Newton--like the rest of the Commissioners--has refused to meet her ethical and professional duty to take corrective steps. Such an individual is unworthy of any judicial office.

We would expect that the Senate--under the leadership of Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno--will be particularly interested in clarifying the facts relative to the Commission on Judicial Conduct. As may be seen from the article "State Politicians to Scrutinize Judicial Conduct Panel", which appeared in the March 1, 1996 issue of The New York Post (Exhibit "E"), Majority Leader Bruno has expressed great concern at indications that the Commission on Judicial Conduct is "ineffective". As documented by the Article 78 file, the Commission is not merely "ineffective" or dysfunctional, it is corrupt.

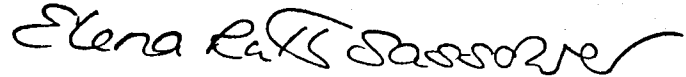
Consequently, by copy of this letter directly to Judge Newton, we call upon her to demonstrate that the dismissal of our Article 78 proceeding against the Commission on Judicial Conduct is not a fraud--and to justify the constitutionality of the Commission's rule, 22 NYCRR §7000.3, as written and as applied--challenged in that proceeding.

To assist Judge Newton in meeting the specific legal and factual issues involved, we enclose the first three pages of our December 15, 1995 letter to the Assembly Judiciary Committee (Exhibit "F")--a copy of which was sent to the Administrator of the

April 18, 1996

Commission on Judicial Conduct, with a request that it be distributed to the Commissioners.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures

cc: Michael Finnegan, Counsel to Governor Pataki
By Certified Mail/RRR: P-801-449-994
Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno
By Certified Mail/RRR: P-801-449-995
Judge Juanita Bing Newton
By Certified Mail/RRR: P-801-449-996
Assembly Judiciary Committee
By Certified Mail/RRR: P-801-449-997
Andrea Bernstein, New York Observer
The New York Times
The New York Law Journal
Al Guart, The New York Post

P 801 449 994
RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL

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Sent to <i>Michael Finnegan</i>	
<i>Gov. George Pataki</i>	
Street and No. <i>Executive Chamber</i>	
P.O. State and ZIP Code <i>Albany, NY 12224</i>	
Postage	\$ <i>1.47</i>
Certified Fee	<i>1.10</i>
Special Delivery Fee	
Restricted Delivery Fee	
Return Receipt showing to whom and Date Delivered	<i>110</i>
Return Receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery	
TOTAL Postage and Fees	\$ <i>3.67</i>
Postmark or Date	

is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

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- Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.
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- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

1. Addressee's Address
 2. Restricted Delivery
 Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:
Michael Finnegan
Gov. George Pataki
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

4a. Article Number
P 801 449 994

4b. Service Type
 Registered Certified
 Express Mail Insured
 Return Receipt for Merchandise COD

5. Received By: (Print Name)
X Paul Bye

6. Signature (Addressee or Agent)
X Paul Bye

7. Date of Delivery
4-22-96

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

PS Form 3811, December 1994

Domestic Return Receipt

PS Form 3800, June 1985

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service

P 801 449 993

RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL

NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED
NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL

(See Reverse)

Sent to *David Greenberg*
Senate Judiciary Committee
Room 413 Capitol

Street and No.

P.O. State and ZIP Code
Albany, NY 12247

Postage \$ *1.47*

Certified Fee \$ *1.10*

Special Delivery Fee

Restricted Delivery Fee

Return Receipt showing to whom and Date Delivered

Return Receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery

TOTAL Postage and Fees \$ *2.57*

Postmark or Date

9536
GEMER STATION
NOV 15 1995

Form 3800, June 1985

Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

SENDER:

- Complete items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.
- Complete items 3, 4a, and 4b.
- Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.
- Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.
- Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.
- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

- Addressee's Address
- Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:

David Greenberg
Senate Judiciary Committee
Room 413, The Capitol
Albany, NY 12247

4a. Article Number

P 801 449 993

4b. Service Type

- Registered Certified
- Express Mail Insured
- Return Receipt for Merchandise COD

7. Date of Delivery

5. Received By: (Print Name)

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)

X A. Abubali 4/22/96
PS Form 3811, December 1994

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

Domestic Return Receipt

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

P 801 449 997

RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL

NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED
NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL

(See Reverse)

Sent to *Assembly Judiciary Committee*
Post Office Central
LOB 831 Empire State Plaza

Street and No.

P.O. State and ZIP Code
Albany, NY 12248

Postage \$ *1.24*

Certified Fee \$ *1.10*

Special Delivery Fee

Restricted Delivery Fee

Return Receipt showing to whom and Date Delivered

Return Receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery

TOTAL Postage and Fees \$ *2.34*

Postmark or Date

9536
GEMER STATION
NOV 15 1995

Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

SENDER:

- Complete items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.
- Complete items 3, 4a, and 4b.
- Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.
- Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.
- Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.
- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

- Addressee's Address
- Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:

Assembly Judiciary Committee
Post Office Central
LOB 831 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12248

4a. Article Number

P 801-449-997

4b. Service Type

- Registered Certified
- Express Mail Insured
- Return Receipt for Merchandise COD

7. Date of Delivery

5. Received By: (Print Name)

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)

X Thomas J. Conolly
PS Form 3811, December 1994

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

Domestic Return Receipt

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side of this form or on the back if space does not permit.

- Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the reverse of this form or on the back if space does not permit.
- Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.
- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

following services (for an extra fee):

- Addressee's Address
- Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

3. Article Addressed to:
 Senate Majority Leader Bruno
 NYS Senate
 Albany, NY 12247

4a. Article Number
 P 801 449 995

4b. Service Type
 Registered Certified
 Express Mail Insured
 Return Receipt for Merchandise COD

7. Date of Delivery

5. Received By: (Print Name)

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)
 X [Signature] 4/22/96

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

PS Form 3811, December 1994

Domestic Return Receipt

P 801 449 995
 RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL
 NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED
 NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL

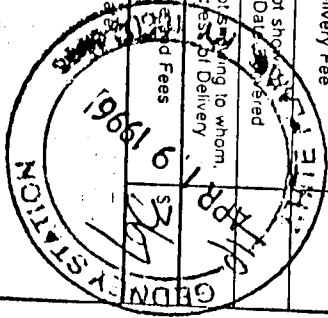
(See Reverse)

Sent to	Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno	
Street and No.	NYS Senate	
P.O., State and ZIP Code	Albany, NY 12247	
Postage	\$	1.47
Certified Fee		1.10
Special Delivery Fee		
Restricted Delivery Fee		
Return Receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery		
Return Receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery		
TOTAL Postage and Fees	\$	2.57
Postmark of		

PS Form 3800, June 1985

Sent to	Judge Vardine
Street and No.	600 Park Avenue
P.O., State and ZIP Code	801 Second Avenue NY 10017
Postage	\$ 1.45
Certified Fee	
Special Delivery Fee	1.10
Restricted Delivery Fee	
Return Receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery	
Return Receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery	
TOTAL Postage and Fees	\$ 2.55
Postmark of	

P 801 449 995
 RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL
 NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED
 NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL



PS Form 3800, June 1985

Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

SENDER:

- Complete Items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.
- Complete Items 3, 4a, and 4b.
- Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.
- Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.
- Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.
- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

- Addressee's Address
- Restricted Delivery

Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:
 Judge Vardine
 New York, Commiss.
 NYS Commission on
 Judicial Conduct
 801 Second Avenue
 NY C 10017

4a. Article Number
 P 801 449 996

4b. Service Type
 Registered Certified
 Express Mail Insured
 Return Receipt for Merchandise COD

7. Date of Delivery

5. Received By: (Print Name)

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)
 X [Signature]

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

PS Form 3811, December 1994

Domestic Return Receipt

Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

State of New York
Executive Chamber

No. 10

EXECUTIVE ORDER

**ESTABLISHING JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEES TO ENSURE
THAT JUDICIAL OFFICER APPOINTMENTS ARE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY**

WHEREAS, under the Constitution and Laws of the State of New York the Governor is entrusted with the responsibility of appointing various judicial officers;

WHEREAS, both the rule of law and public confidence in the integrity of the judicial process require that the primary criteria for selecting judicial officers be the quality of their intellect, judgment, temperament, character and experience; that candidates for judicial office be chosen without regard to political party affiliation or background; that highly qualified candidates be encouraged to apply for judicial offices; and that highly qualified candidates should be drawn from a cross-section of the state, reflecting a diversity of experience and background;

WHEREAS, the highest quality of judicial officer appointments can best be assured with the assistance of non-partisan judicial screening committees composed of outstanding citizens drawn from all quarters of the State; and

WHEREAS, the first obligation of Government is to protect its citizens from crime and violence; public confidence in the criminal justice system has been eroded; and certain judicial offices exercise important responsibilities in the administration of the criminal justice system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE E. PATAKI, Governor of the State of New York, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New York, do hereby order as follows:

1. Judicial Screening Committees, as described below, are hereby established.
2. Each Judicial Screening Committee shall:
 - a. Actively recruit candidates for appointment or designation to the judicial offices within the committee's jurisdiction, to the end of obtaining candidates reflecting the diverse backgrounds and experience of the citizens of this State;
 - b. Review and evaluate the qualifications of candidates recruited by it or proposed to it by any person or organization, and conduct all appropriate inquiry into the qualifications of all such candidates. In reviewing and evaluating the qualifications of candidates, each committee member shall give primary consideration to the quality of a candidate's intellect, judgment, temperament, character and experience, and shall not give any consideration to the race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation or political party affiliation of a candidate. Whenever appropriate to a particular judicial office, each committee member

EX 'E'

shall remain cognizant of my commitment to protecting the citizens of this State from crime and violence and to enhancing public confidence in the criminal justice system;

c. Recommend for appointment or designation only those candidates who, as determined by a majority vote of all members of the committee, are highly qualified for the judicial office for which they are being considered. No committee shall pass on the qualifications of any candidate until after a thorough inquiry has been made by the committee and

d. Prepare written reports on the qualifications of each candidate it determines to be highly qualified and recommends to the Governor. The reports shall remain confidential, except that upon the announcement by the Governor of an appointment the report relating to the appointee shall be available for public inspection. All records and deliberations of, and all communications to, the Judicial Screening Committee with respect to a candidate's qualifications shall be held in confidence and shall not be disclosed to anyone other than the Governor, Counsel to the Governor or their designees. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information submitted to the Judicial Screening Committees relating to an appointee may be disclosed to the Senate when necessary for constitutional confirmation of the appointee, and information submitted to the Judicial Screening Committee may be disclosed to any other person or organization if disclosure is required in connection with disciplinary proceedings.

3. A State Judicial Screening Committee is hereby established. The State Judicial Screening Committee shall consist of thirteen members: the Counsel to the Governor, the Chairperson of each of the Departmental Judicial Screening Committees established by paragraph 4 of this Order, and two of the other members of each of the Departmental Judicial Screening Committees, who shall be selected by the Governor. The Chairperson of the State Judicial Screening Committee shall be appointed by the Governor from among the members of the Committee.

The term of office of any member of the State Judicial Screening Committee shall expire at the same time as the member's term of office on a Departmental Screening Committee expires.

The State Judicial Screening Committee shall have jurisdiction to consider the qualifications of candidates for appointment to the offices of Judge and Presiding Judge of the Court of Claims, and to recommend to the Governor all persons whom it finds highly qualified for those judicial offices.

When exercising the power to designate the Presiding Judge of the Court of Claims pursuant to section 2(7) of the Court of Claims Act; or the power to appoint a Judge of the Court of Claims pursuant to section 9 of Article VI of the Constitution and sections 2(2) and 2(4) of the Court of Claims Act; or the power to fill a vacancy in the office of Judge of the Court of Claims pursuant to section 21(b) of Article VI of the Constitution, the Governor shall appoint or designate only persons who have been recommended by the State Judicial Screening Committee as highly qualified for the judicial office to which the appointment or designation is to be made.

The State Judicial Screening Committee shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to govern its proceedings and those of the Departmental and County Judicial Screening Committees established by this Order. The rules and regulations shall include standards and procedures for ensuring, to the extent possible, uniformity of criteria for evaluating the qualifications of candidates for appointment or designation to judicial office throughout the State.

4. A Department Judicial Screening Committee is hereby established in each judicial department of the State. Each Departmental Judicial Screening Committee shall consist of thirteen members: five members shall be selected by the Governor, two members shall be selected by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, two members shall be selected by the Attorney General, one member shall be selected by the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division for that department, one member shall be selected jointly by the leaders of one major political party in each house of the Legislature, one member shall be selected jointly by the leaders of the other major political party in each house of the Legislature, and one member shall be selected by the President of the New York State Bar Association. The Chairperson of each Departmental Judicial Screening Committee shall be appointed by the Governor from among the members of the

Committee. Each member of the Committee shall be a resident of, have an office in, or work in the judicial department in which he or she is to serve.

Each Departmental Judicial Screening Committee shall have jurisdiction to consider the qualifications of candidates for designation to the offices of Justice, Temporary Justice and Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for such department, and candidates for appointment to the office of Supreme Court Justice for such department, and to recommend to the Governor all persons whom it finds highly qualified for those judicial offices.

When exercising the power to designate the Presiding Justice of each Appellate Division pursuant to section 4(c) of Article VI of the Constitution; or the power to designate other Justices of any Appellate Division pursuant to sections 4(c) and 4(d) of Article VI of the Constitution; or the power to designate additional Justices of any Appellate Division pursuant to section 4(e) of Article VI of the Constitution; or the power to fill a vacancy in the office of Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to section 21(a) of Article VI of the Constitution, the Governor shall appoint or designate only persons who have been recommended by the appropriate Departmental Judicial Screening Committee as highly qualified for the judicial office to which the appointment is to be made.

5. A County Judicial Screening Committee is hereby established in each county of the State, consisting of the members of the Departmental Judicial Screening Committee for the department in which the county is located plus one additional person who shall be resident of, have an office in, or work in the county in which he or she is to serve, to be selected by the chief executive officer of the county. The Chairman of the Department Judicial Screening Committee shall also serve as Chairman of the County Judicial Screening Committee.

As used herein, the term "chief executive officer" for the county shall mean the appointed or elected county executive, as the case may be, or if there be no such office, the chairman of the governing body of the county; provided, however, that for counties within the City of New York, the term "chief executive officer" for the county shall mean the Mayor of the City of New York.

Each County Judicial Screening Committee shall have jurisdiction to consider the qualifications of candidates for appointment to the offices of Judge of the County Court, Judge of the Surrogate's Court, and Judge of the Family Court outside of the City of New York, for such county, and to recommend to the Governor all persons whom it finds highly qualified for those judicial offices.

When exercising the power of appointment to fill a vacancy in the office of Judge of the County Court, Judge of the Surrogate's Court, or of Judge of the Family Court outside of the City of New York, pursuant to section 21(a) of Article VI of the Constitution, the Governor shall appoint only persons who have been recommended by the appropriate County Judicial Screening Committee as highly qualified for the judicial office to which the appointment is to be made.

6. The terms of office of the members of the Judicial Screening Committees established by this Executive Order shall be for a term of three years and subject to the provisions of section 5 of the Public Officers Law. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments, and a person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. No member shall be removed by the Governor except for cause.

7. No member of a Judicial Screening Committee shall hold any judicial or elected public office for which he shall receive compensation during his period of service, nor shall he hold any office in any political party. No member of a Judicial Screening Committee shall be eligible for appointment to any judicial office within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Screening Committee on which the member serves during the member's period of service or within one year thereafter. Members of Judicial Screening Committees shall receive no compensation for their service, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for any necessary expenses incurred by them in connection with the performance of their duties. Each judicial screening committee shall have a paid staff available to it sufficient to enable the committee to carry out properly its responsibilities including adequate investigations into all matters relevant to the qualifications of candidates for appointment to judicial office.

8. Except as may be necessary or appropriate prior to the time the Judicial Screening Committees established by this Executive Order are fully operational, the power to fill a vacancy in a judicial office will be

exercised by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of this Executive Order. Executive Order Number 134.2 dated May 26, 1993, is revoked and superseded by this Executive Order.

G I V E N under my hand and the Privy
Seal of the State in the City
of Albany this twenty-fifth
day of April in the year one
thousand nine hundred ninety-
five.

L.S.

BY THE GOVERNOR

/s/ George E. Pataki

/s/ Bradford J. Race, Jr.

Secretary to the Governor

State of New York
Executive Chamber

No. 11

E X E C U T I V E O R D E R

ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE
TO ENSURE THAT JUDICIAL OFFICER APPOINTEES ARE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY

WHEREAS, under the Constitution and laws of New York, the Governor is entrusted with the responsibility of appointing various judicial officers;

WHEREAS, by Executive Order No. 10 I have ordered that Judicial Screening Committees be established to ensure that judicial officer appointments are of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, vacancies presently exist in various judicial offices and it is or may become necessary or appropriate to appoint highly qualified candidates to fill these vacancies, and other vacancies that may hereafter arise, prior to the time the Judicial Screening Committees are fully operational;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE E. PATAKI, Governor of the State of New York, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New York, do hereby order as follows:

1. A Temporary Judicial Screening Committee is hereby established.
2. The Temporary Judicial Screening Committee shall:
 - a. At the direction of the Governor, following the Governor's determination that it is necessary or appropriate to the administration of justice that a vacancy in a judicial office be filled prior to the time the Judicial Screening Committees are fully operational, review and evaluate the qualifications of candidates proposed to it by any person or organization and conduct all appropriate inquiry into the qualifications of all such candidates. In reviewing and evaluating the qualifications of candidates, each member shall give primary consideration to the quality of a candidate's intellect, judgment, temperament, character and experience, and shall not give any consideration to the race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation or political affiliation of a candidate. Whenever appropriate to a particular judicial office, each member shall remain cognizant of my commitment to protecting the citizens of this State from crime and violence and to enhancing public confidence in the criminal justice system;
 - b. Recommend for appointment or designation only those candidates who, as determined by a majority vote of all members of the committee, are highly qualified for the judicial office for which they are being considered. The committee shall not pass on the qualifications of any candidate until after a thorough inquiry has been made by the committee; and
 - c. Prepare written reports on the qualifications of each candidate it determines to be highly qualified and recommends to the Governor. The reports shall remain confidential, except that upon the announcement by the Governor of an appointment the report relating to the

EX "F"

appointee shall be made available for public inspection. All records and deliberations of, and all communications to, the Temporary Judicial Screening Committee with respect to a candidate's qualifications shall be held in confidence and shall not be disclosed to anyone other than the Governor, Counsel to the Governor or their designees. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information submitted to the Temporary Judicial Screening Committee relating to an appointee may be disclosed to the Senate when necessary for constitutional confirmation of the appointee and to the Judicial Screening Committees; in addition, information submitted to the committee may be disclosed to any other person or organization if disclosure is required in connection with disciplinary proceedings.

3. The Temporary Judicial Screening Committee shall consist of the following members: the designee of the Attorney General, the designee of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Counsel to the Governor, the Secretary to the Governor, the Director of Criminal Justice, the President of the New York State Bar Association or his designee and the Honorable Lawrence H. Cooke, former Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, who shall act as its chairperson. No member of the committee shall hold any judicial or elected public office for which he shall receive compensation during his period of service, nor shall he hold any office in any political party. Members of the committee shall receive no compensation for their service, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for any necessary expenses incurred by them in connection with the performance of their duties. The Office of Counsel to the Governor shall make available to the committee sufficient staff and resources to enable the committee to carry out properly its responsibilities including adequate investigations into all matters relevant to the qualifications of candidates for appointment to judicial office.

4. Upon written notification to the chairperson of the Temporary Judicial Screening Committee from the chairperson of a Judicial Screening Committee that the committee is fully operational, the Temporary Judicial Screening Committee shall cease reviewing the qualifications of candidates for judicial offices within the jurisdiction of the notifying committee and shall transmit to the chairperson of the notifying committee all relevant information, records and reports relating to candidates.

G I V E N under my hand and the Privy
Seal of the State in the City
of Albany this twenty-fifth
day of April in the year one
thousand nine hundred ninety-
five.

L.S.

BY THE GOVERNOR

/s/ George E. Pataki

/s/ Bradford J. Race, Jr.
Secretary to the Governor

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

(914) 421-1200 • Fax (914) 684-6554

E-Mail: probono@delphi.com

Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605

By Fax: 518-486-4466

By Priority Mail: Certified / RRR: P-801-449-708

April 24, 1996

Honorable George Pataki
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Attention: Martha McHugh, Director of Scheduling

Dear Governor Pataki:

As you may know from past correspondence sent to your office, the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. is a national non-profit, non-partisan, citizens' organization -- headquartered in White Plains, New York -- working to rebuild our judicial system by meaningful reform of the judicial selection and discipline processes. Earlier this month, our work was featured on an A&E cable documentary about judicial misconduct, which aired throughout the country. A copy of our informational brochure is enclosed.

We understand that you are to be the Law Day speaker on May 1st at Pace University Law School in White Plains. Although you are probably heavily scheduled on that day, would it be possible for us to make a brief presentation to you on behalf of the People of the State of New York while you are in White Plains? Our presentation is not an award or citation, but something far more important to the citizenry of this State: Petitions expressly addressed to you as Governor and signed by thousands of New Yorkers--calling for an investigation of judicial corruption in New York State.

To substantiate the compelling need for such investigation, we also wish to present you with a copy of the litigation file of our case against the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct. As detailed in our past correspondence to your office, that file documentarily establishes that the Commission on Judicial Conduct is corrupt and has corrupted the judicial process. For your convenience, we enclose a copy of our Letter to the Editor, "Commission Abandons Investigative Mandate" published in the August 14, 1995 *New York Law Journal* about our ground-breaking legal challenge to the Commission and how it was dumped by the Supreme Court, New York County, in a fraudulent judgment of dismissal.

It would be a powerful symbol of your commitment to restoring public confidence in our third branch of government if you, as New York's CEO, could find a moment on Law Day to personally accept the Petitions of thousands of New Yorkers addressed to you, as well as our corroborating litigation file against the Commission on Judicial Conduct.

April 24, 1996

If it is impossible to schedule our personal presentation on Law Day, please let us know when we could make such presentation on an alternate date as close to Law Day as convenient to commemorate your commitment. Kindly fax or telephone the Center so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Our deepest appreciation for your attention to this issue of transcending public importance.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures