



U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20530

MAY 17 1996

Ms. Elena Ruth Sassower
16 Lake Street, Apt. 2C
White Plains, New York 10603

Ms. Doris L. Sassower
282 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, New York 10606

Dear Mss. Sassower:

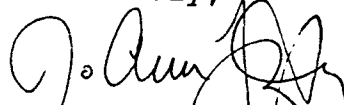
This is in response to your recent letter to the Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice's Criminal Division. With your letter you attach a copy of your judicial misconduct complaint against Chief Judge Jon O. Newman of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and you indicate your belief that the actions complained of therein constitute criminal conduct. In particular, you suggest that the rulings imposing and upholding sanctions against you in your civil rights housing action were influenced by the history of litigation against members of the federal bench by your relative, George Sassower. You ask that the Public Integrity Section conduct a criminal investigation.

We have carefully reviewed your letter and the materials you enclosed with it. Based upon that review, we have concluded that there is an insufficient basis to commence a federal criminal investigation. The Justice Department's investigations of public officials are based on specific information which indicates that those officials may have violated federal criminal law. In this matter, we have no information to suggest that the actions by the judges that you complained of constitutes a federal criminal offense. Individual disagreement with the actions or decisions of public officials, without evidence of federal criminal wrongdoing, is not a sufficient predicate for a criminal investigation.

EX "J-2"

We understand that you are frustrated by the rulings against you, and we regret that we cannot be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jo Ann Farrington".

Jo Ann Farrington
Deputy Chief
Public Integrity Section
Criminal Division