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Ms. Elena Ruth Sassower
P.O. Box 69
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Dear Elena:

It was a pleasure speaking with you at the recent conference at U.S.C. As promised, I have taken the past three hours to review the materials that you gave me at the conference, and have a couple of thoughts, all of them offered in my individual capacity only.

The two of us agree that judicial accountability is a necessary counterbalance to judicial independence. I likewise agree with your conclusion that if a judicial decision is the product of fraud or bribery, it is a form of misconduct deserving of discipline, if not impeachment. And, as you point out in your citation to my work, we agree that courts have historically insisted on too stringent a standard for recusal.

It would seem from your materials, however, that your primary concern is not so much to promote systemic change, as it is to right the specific wrong that has been done to your mother. Virtually all of your materials focus on whether *in her case*, the judges in question were inadequately accountable, perpetrated a fraud, or improperly declined to recuse themselves. As you know, the federal courts never reached the merits of your mother's case, concluding that the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine deprived them of subject matter jurisdiction over the matter. Were I to express my agreement with the courts' conclusion that the doctrine applied, it would serve only to convince you that I was proceeding in lock-step with others whom you suspect of complicity in a larger effort to conceal judicial wrong-doing in your mother's case. I'm not going down that road.

When I was in private practice nearly a decade ago, I represented individual clients in court, and before Congress and state legislatures. I left practice and went into teaching after I discovered that I was best suited to work with issues such as judicial accountability on a public policy level, rather than in the context of individual cases. Public policy, in turn, should not be shaped on the basis of a particular case involving a particular individual, but on the basis of patterns cutting across

multitudes of cases.

The Martindale-Hubbel entry on your mother underscores what an impressive and distinguished legal career she has had. I really do wish you the very best in your efforts to vindicate her, but do not believe that seeking public policy reform on the basis of her case alone is likely to be an effective means to that end.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Geyh