

## CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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3 pages

January 12, 1998

Joshua Pruzansky, President  
New York State Bar Association

Dear Mr. Pruzansky:

Thank you for returning my call -- and your very kind words and recollection of my mother. As you made me promise, I will convey to her your regards and you, in return, will read her published Reply appearing in today's Gannett newspaper, and the December 27th Gannett article to which it responds.

I am truly gratified by your statement to me that you read all the correspondence I faxed to you on Friday. However, with all respect, the State Bar Association cannot sit "mum" on the sidelines, while the Governor's judicial screening committees violate express requirements of the Executive Order under which they were established and while the Governor himself violates his own Executive Orders by withholding from the public information to which the public is expressly entitled: the committee reports on nominees' qualifications. Nor can the State Bar Association "look the other way" when the dysfunctional and politicized screening and nominations process is capped by a dysfunctional and politicized confirmation "non-process".

If the State Bar Association -- with its expertise, prestige, and financial strength -- cannot protest on behalf of the public, who will do so? To date, the heavy burden has fallen on our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, which hasn't a fraction of the State Bar's resources -- or that of any other bar association.

At very least, we believe that the State Bar Association should request that the Governor respond to the serious issues reflected by our letters, as well as request a response from the Senate Judiciary Committee -- which even as of this moment -- has not contacted us about our opposition to Mr. O'Rourke's confirmation, which is scheduled for tomorrow.

Thank you again.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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