

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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28 pages

January 9, 1998

Joshua Pruzansky, President
New York State Bar Association

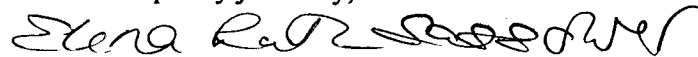
Dear Mr. Pruzansky:

Regrettably, you have been tied up, each of the three times I called today. There exists an emergency situation regarding Governor Pataki's judicial appointments process -- and a nominee whose confirmation may take place as soon as Tuesday, January 13th. The nominee is former Westchester County Executive Andrew O'Rourke, who the Governor appointed to the Court of Claims. The enclosed letters will give you the background to what has been happening:

- (1) CJA's January 9, 1998 letter to the State Senate Judiciary Committee, protesting its failure to respond to our informational inquiries and our opposition to Mr. O'Rourke's confirmation (2 pages)
- (2) CJA's January 7, 1998 letter to Chief Judge Judith Kaye, requesting her assistance (5 pages)
- (3) CJA's December 29, 1997 letter to the members of the State Judicial Screening Committee, calling upon them to withdraw the "highly qualified" rating (8 pages).
- (4) CJA's December 26, 1997 letter to Mr. O'Rourke, calling upon him to substantiate the "highly qualified" rating (4 pages); and
- (5) CJA's December 23, 1997 letter to the Governor's Counsel, James McGuire, calling upon the Governor to withdraw Mr. O'Rourke's nomination (8 pages).

Hard copies, with exhibits, will be mailed to your office.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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