

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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

Tel. (914) 421-1200
Fax (914) 428-4994

E-Mail: judgewatch@aol.com
Web site: www.judgewatch.org

Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

February 18, 1999

P R E S S R E L E A S E

House Judiciary Committee Ignores and Conceals Hundreds of Judicial Impeachment Complaints

Impeachment is NOT over with last week's Senate vote on the impeachment articles against the President. The House Judiciary Committee has *other* impeachment duties. Federal judges are also impeachable for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors" under Article 2, Section 4 of the Constitution. Unlike the President, who is elected for a term of years, federal judges are appointed and serve for life, unless removed by impeachment.

The House Judiciary Committee receives HUNDREDS of impeachment complaints against federal judges. These complaints are filed by ordinary citizens, no less entitled to their "day in court" than Paula Jones. Their complaints assert that they were deprived of that "day" by the misconduct of federal judges, warranting impeachment and removal.

How does the House Judiciary Committee handle these judicial impeachment complaints? In contrast to the House Judiciary Committee's vigorous championing of "the rule of law" and "equal justice" on behalf of Ms. Jones, its response to citizens filing these complaints is very different. The Committee ignores their complaints -- no matter how serious and fully-documented. It does NOT investigate, refer, or even acknowledge them. It also ignores the follow-up inquiries of complainants, expecting that, sooner or later, they will give up calling or writing about their long-ago filed judicial impeachment complaints.

The Committee then conceals its misfeasance by NOT statistically recording the number of complaints it receives in its "Summary of Activities", as it is supposed to. The latest available figures -- from the 101st and 102nd Congress -- are that the Committee received 141 and 120 complaints, respectively. These complaints are supposed to be "available upon request"¹, but the Committee withholds public access to them.

¹ See Report of the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal, 1993, at p. 35.

On top of this, the Committee has jettisoned its oversight duty to ensure that statutory mechanisms in the other two branches are functioning, as Congress intended, to protect citizens against dishonest and abusive federal judges. The Committee ignores documentary proof, formally presented, that the federal judiciary has systemically and corruptly subverted the statute that created a disciplinary complaint mechanism within the federal judiciary [28 U.S.C. §372(c)], as well as the statutes governing federal judicial disqualification and disclosure [28 U.S.C. §§144, 455]. This, in addition to ignoring documentary proof that the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section wrongfully dismisses, or ignores entirely, fact-specific, documented complaints of criminal conduct by federal judges.

The media has completely overlooked this story of how the House Judiciary Committee turns its back on "the rule of law" and "equal justice" for this nation's citizens, victimized by dishonest and abusive judges. This, despite its many months covering the House Judiciary Committee in the context of the President's impeachment -- during which time Chairman Hyde proclaimed, repeatedly, how he could not turn away from his impeachment duty to uphold the "rule of law" -- which he repeatedly described as a "three legged stool", whose first leg is an "honest judge".

The Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), a national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization documenting judicial corruption, has a FIVE-YEAR correspondence with the House Judiciary Committee, focused on the Committee's wilful abdication of its duty to address the hundreds of judicial impeachment complaints it receives. Capping this correspondence is CJA's June 1998 written statement to the Committee, particularizing its complicity in the federal judiciary's subversion of statutory protections designed to ensure judicial integrity. CJA offers these primary source materials -- including copies of judicial impeachment complaints filed with the House Judiciary Committee² -- to journalists interested in exposing how the Committee handles its impeachment duties in relation to the federal judiciary AND its *actual* commitment to "the rule of law", "equal justice", and "the integrity of the judicial process" -- the purported basis for its drive to impeach and remove the President.

For a glimpse at the significance and power of these primary source materials, see CJA's published article, "*Without Merit: The Empty Promise of Judicial Discipline*" [The Long Term View (Massachusetts School of Law), Vol. 4, No. 1 (summer 1997)], as well as its June 1998 written statement to the House Judiciary Committee -- both posted on CJA's website: www.judgewatch.org .

² Among these judicial impeachment complaints are three filed by CJA, in June 1993, in March 1998, and in November 1998. The most recent impeachment complaint is against Chief Justice Rehnquist and the Associate Justices and is summarized in the accompanying press release.