

Subj: Introductions  
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Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.  
Friday, June 26, 1998

Dear Mr. Bollier:

**What a pleasant surprise to find you on the netaction.org site. I am very familiar with your excellent book, Citizen Action and Other Big Ideas – which we received many years ago, free of charge, from the Center for the Study of Responsive Law.**

I must say, however, that the first page of Chapter 8 is misleading in representing that Mr. Nader has the slightest interest in fostering citizen organizations – or that he has any sensitivity to the profound hurdles we face. Over the years, our citizens' organization, the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), has repeatedly sought Mr. Nader's advice, assistance, and endorsement – without the slightest success. Indeed, our phone calls and correspondence have been routinely ignored.

As illustrative, I am taking the liberty of attaching CJA's most recent letter to Mr. Nader, dated April 7th, which was actually addressed to his bookseller, Michael Green. The letter quotes from your Chapter 8. This was NOT the first time we quoted or referred to that chapter in our correspondence with Mr. Nader – always without response.

Actually, we did receive a response, of sorts, from the Center for the Study of Responsive Law. It apparently received from Mr. Green the referred-to envelope containing our March 26th letter because it deposited our \$39.30 check which was inside. That check was in payment for books which our unfunded citizens organization had requested (whose titles we had gotten from the back of your book).

As pointed out to Mr. Green in our April 7th letter, "there is NO personnel at Mr. Nader's Center for the Study of Responsive Law assigned to the vital task of receiving requests from citizens' organizations, such as ours". It is for this reason that much as we turned to Mr. Green to be our "intermediary" to Mr. Nader, without response, so we turn to you.

We hope you will accept – and that you will want to learn more about CJA . We invite you to visit our website. Although it is not updated, it contains the summary of our portfolio of activities that was part of CJA's 1996 "funding proposal" – several copies of which we long ago provided to Mr. Nader, including one that I personally gave him, in hand, in September 1996. All our strenuous attempts to secure foundation funding were unsuccessful – a fact we made known to Mr. Nader then and thereafter.

Should you wish to see a sampling of CJA's workproduct, we recently testified before the Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals. Our April 24th testimony can be accessed from the Commission's website: [www.app.comm.uscourts.gov/](http://www.app.comm.uscourts.gov/) . We would hope that Mr. Nader would get some satisfaction from the fact that, as part of our testimony, we cited the chapter entitled "Judicial Nominations: Whither Advice and Consent?" from his 1975 book on the House and Senate Judiciary Committee, which was part of his Congress Project. Unfortunately, the appalling non-scrutiny of judicial nominations that existed 28 years ago remains true today. We believe this is because one-time books and reports are NOT ENOUGH. They must be accompanied by sustained advocacy. There is no non-partisan citizens' organization doing that – excepting our organization, which, in addition to being unfunded has no "big names" to give us clout and command media attention. (Parenthetically, the Judiciary Committees book was among the titles we found listed at the back of your book – and for which we were charged \$5.95.)

It is with the utmost sincerity and sadness that I tell you that our one-sided correspondence with Mr. Nader reflects extremely poorly on Mr. Nader – and that is putting it mildly. Because of our deepest respect and admiration for Mr. Nader, we have consistently concealed his mistreatment of us. I suppose we will continue to do so, except if we are asked whether we've turned to Mr. Nader for assistance. However, since you are a colleague of Mr. Nader's and recognize the importance of

citizen action, I believe it would be appropriate to show you CJA's correspondence with him so that you can make your own independent assessment. We do need your help and, therefore, will provide you copies should you wish.

At any rate, we are – at this point in time – inclined to believe that the organizations Mr. Nader has assisted, supported, and endorsed – listed at Appendix 1 of your book – are not so much citizen organizations in the sense of being founded by citizens, but organizations which he founded. Please advise us of the extent to which this is so.

Unfortunately, Mr. Nader failed to found an organization devoted to safeguarding the public interest in meaningful and effective processes of judicial selection and discipline.

With appreciation and thanks.

Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

cc: [by mail] Ralph Nader, Esq.  
Michael Green, Esq.

P.S. Just this week, we submitted a statement to the House Judiciary Committee. We will separately attach that, FYI.

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