

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY FAX AND MAIL: 202-483-9430

8 pages

September 18, 1998

Dr. Morton H. Halperin, Senior Vice President
The Century Foundation
1755 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036

RE: "Citizens for Independent Courts"

Dear Dr. Halperin:

Enclosed is a copy of my September 15th letter to Mr. Minberg, to which you and Virginia Sloan are indicated recipients.

As reflected therein, Mr. Minberg believed that "Citizens for Independent Courts" -- of which he is a member -- would be greatly interested in the information I imparted to him. That information concerned the breakdown of the very checks on federal judicial misconduct, identified in the 1993 Report of the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal as existing in the three government Branches -- and the demonstration of that breakdown as the central issue in a case now before the U.S. Supreme Court on a petition for a writ of certiorari.

For this reason, I confided to Mr. Minberg our experience with "Citizens for Independent Courts" -- including the fact that the primary source materials we had provided it -- and among them, the cert petition -- were returned to us by Ms. Sloan, its Executive Director, in uncreased, "untouched by human hands" condition. I also told Mr. Minberg that you -- an indicated recipient of Ms. Sloan's transmittal letter to me -- had failed to return any of my several phone calls to you to discuss "Citizens for Independent Courts" and Ms. Sloan's misconduct. This is recounted in my September 15th letter to Mr. Minberg (at pp. 3-4).

For the record, over the last two weeks I telephoned you four times: on September 4th, when I left a message with Heather Freeman; on September 9th, when I left a message with your assistant, Greg Priddy; on September 10th, when I left a message again with Ms. Freeman; and on September 14th, when I left a message with Christina Jordan. In each of my last two messages, I emphasized that

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these long-distance calls were costly for the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) -- which, unlike "Citizens for Independent Courts", is not only a true citizens' organization, but an unfunded one -- that the calls related to matters which are time-sensitive; and that, if you were unable to return the calls personally, you at least designate someone in a position of responsibility at the Century Foundation to do so on your behalf. Still, no response.

In the event Ms. Sloan has not shared with you my August 25th fax -- to which her own August 25th letter was utterly non-responsive and to which we have received no subsequent response -- a copy is enclosed.

As soon as can be arranged, CJA would like to set up a meeting with you -- or with others at the Century Foundation -- so that the Century Foundation can see for itself the extraordinary primary source materials we provided "Citizens for Independent Courts" -- and the pristine condition in which they were returned.

Should you be unwilling to agree to such a meeting, we will take steps to bring this serious matter to the personal attention of George Soros, whose Open Society Institute authorized \$215,00 to the Twentieth Century Fund, now Century Foundation, to develop the "nonpartisan coalition and blue ribbon committee" -- which has become the sham and misnomered "Citizens for Independent Courts".

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

Enclosures

cc: Virginia Sloan, Executive Director, "Citizens for Independent Courts"
Catherine Samuels, Director, Program on Law & Society, Open Society Institute
Elliot Minberg, Legal Director/General Counsel, People for the American Way

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