

## CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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*Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator*

**BY FAX AND BY MAIL: 202-483-9430**

2 pages

December 2, 1998

Virginia Sloan, Executive Director  
Citizens for Independent Courts  
1755 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 412  
Washington, D.C. 20036

RE: CJA's Participation in a "Citizens" Organization

Dear Virginia:

This letter is written in the hope that, following our amicable meeting last month at the USC Law School Symposium, "Judicial Independence and Accountability", and my substantive conversations with Charles Gardner Geyh, who functions as "a task force reporter to Citizens for Independent Courts", you might reconsider CJA's citizen participation in Citizens for Independent Courts.

The information sheet about Citizens for Independent Courts, available at the USC Symposium, identifies the "four key areas" being studied by its task forces. CJA has expertise and direct, first-hand experience in ALL four areas -- as Charles could tell you, based on the evidentiary materials I gave him at the Symposium. These consisted of the cert petition in *Sassower v. Mangano, et al.* (#98-106), whose concluding sentence (at p. 30) is a quote from Charles' own consultant's study for the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal. I also gave him the supplemental brief and petition for rehearing in the case, together with CJA's November 6, 1998 impeachment complaint against the Justices, based thereon, filed with the House Judiciary Committee. Additionally, I provided him with CJA's written statement to the House Judiciary Committee for inclusion in the record of its June 11, 1998 hearing on "the administration and operation of the federal judiciary", together with the supporting documentary compendium. These materials, constituting a unique case study of judicial misconduct, BLAST to smithereens all the standard rhetoric about judicial independence and accountability -- including those touted in the National Commission's 1993 Report and the ABA's 1997 Report of the Commission on Separation of Powers and Judicial Independence.

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Charles not only agreed to review the materials, but offered to comment upon them. Such comment will be a FIRST, since NO ONE IN A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP has been willing to do so<sup>1</sup>. This includes, most particularly, ABA President Philip Anderson and former ABA President Jerome Shestack<sup>2</sup> -- each members of Citizens for Independent Courts.

I assume that you, as Executive Director of Citizens for Independent Courts, and Charles, as Director of the American Judicature Society's Center for Judicial Independence, have each been invited to the ABA's December 4-5, 1998 symposium in Philadelphia, "Bulwarks of the Republic: Judicial Independence and Accountability in the American System of Justice". I had hoped to see you there and to have had an opportunity to speak with each of you. However, the ABA has REFUSED to extend an invitation to me or to any other representative of CJA. I have written directly to President Anderson about this, requesting an invitation. As yet, we have received no response.

Looking forward to your, hopefully favorable, response to this letter. As I previously offered, should you wish a personal presentation of CJA's breathtaking accomplishments in the areas of judicial selection and discipline, I would be pleased to come to Washington for such purpose.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

cc: Professor Charles Gardner Geyh  
Professor Stephen Burbank [By Fax: 215-573-2025]

P.S. Inasmuch as I do not have Charles' fax number, I would appreciate if you would fax this letter to him.

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<sup>1</sup> Indeed, Professor Stephen Burbank has refused to even examine the materials -- even as recently as November 21st, at the USC Symposium.

<sup>2</sup> Citizens for Independent Courts was an indicated recipient of our August 11, 1998 letter to President Anderson -- which annexed copies of our unresponded-to correspondence to then President Shestack. President Anderson has never responded.