

CITIZENS FOR INDEPENDENT COURTS

A PROJECT OF THE CENTURY FOUNDATION/TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND

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Virginia E. Sloan
Executive Director

Hon. Mickey Edwards
Hon. Lloyd N. Cutler
Co-Chairs

December 7, 1998

Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.
P.O. Box 69
Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Dear Elena:

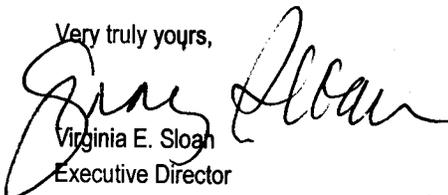
Thank you for your letter of December 2. It was nice to meet you in Los Angeles. However, I continue to believe that coordination between our two organizations would be neither fruitful nor appropriate. As I stated in my earlier letter on the same matter, given both the tax laws and the objectives of Citizens for Independent Courts, we cannot take positions on many of the matters about which you have sought our intervention.

Furthermore, the goals of our organizations are quite different. We seek consensus on a variety of difficult issues relating to judicial independence. While accountability is of course an integral part of our work, our primary focus is on how best to promote independence. While the Center for Judicial Accountability is also concerned with judicial independence, it is clear that your primary -- if not exclusive -- focus is on judicial accountability.

In addition, through your conversations with me and through the material you sent me, you have clearly indicated that you consider some of the groups working with Citizens for Independent Courts to be "dishonest" and to have engaged in "grossly unprofessional and unethical conduct." Since we do not agree with this characterization and with other of the conclusions you describe in your material, and since our goal is consensus rather than conflict, it appears that our missions are simply incompatible and that the Center for Judicial Accountability's participation in our work is not appropriate.

As I have stated previously, I am sorry that coordination between Citizens for Independent Courts and the Center for Judicial Accountability is not possible.

Very truly yours,



Virginia E. Sloan
Executive Director

cc: John Kowal, Open Society Institute