

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY PRIORITY MAIL

Certified/RRR: 7099-3400-0001-2791-8431

November 1, 2000

Steven M. Zeidman, Executive Director
The Fund for Modern Courts
351 West 54th Street
New York, New York 10019

RE: Vindicating the Public's right to "merit selection" of candidates to the Court of Appeals

Dear Mr. Zeidman:

It was a pleasure to have finally had the opportunity to speak with you by phone yesterday. Thank you for giving generously of your time and treating me with such courtesy.

Enclosed is CJA's October 16, 2000 report, copies of which were delivered, on October 17th, to the Governor, Chief Judge, the NYS Commission on Judicial Nomination, and the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct, in addition to the four bar association recipients. As discussed, the report exposes the Commission on Judicial Nomination's abandonment of "merit selection" principles and the fact that the corruption of the Commission on Judicial Conduct thwarts the very possibility of "merit selection". Should you wish to see the underlying substantiating documentation to which CJA's report refers, I would be pleased to provide it.

Some of this substantiating documentation is already in the Fund's possession: the file of the Article 78 proceeding, *Doris L. Sassower v. Commission on Judicial Conduct of the State of New York* (NY Co. #95-109141), a copy of which was provided in 1995, and the verified petition in the Article 78 proceeding, *Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., acting pro bono publico v. Commission on Judicial Conduct of the State of New York* (NY Co. #99-108551), a copy of which was delivered on July 11, 2000 under my hand-written coverletter.

For your convenience, a copy of that July 11th coverletter is attached, as it highlights the importance of the verified petition in giving "an inside view of the corruption of not only the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct, but of the Commission on Judicial Nomination."

As one of the foremost proponents of "merit selection" in this State, it is incumbent upon the Fund to address the serious issues detailed by CJA's October 16, 2000 report - including at the confirmation "hearing" on any appointee the Governor might select from the Commission on Judicial Nomination's *facially-violative* October 4, 2000 report of recommendees.

I would appreciate if you would call me after you have reviewed CJA's October 16, 2000 report. Otherwise, I will call you late next week so as to answer any questions you might have and have the benefit of your comment.

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

Elena Ruth Sassower

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

Enclosures

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*Steven M. Zeidman
Executive Director
The Fund for Modern
Courts
351 West 54th Street
NY, NY 10019*

2. Article Number (Copy from service label)

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