



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Attorney General

1/7/02
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Deputy Attorney General
Division of Public Advocacy

(212) 416-8397

January 3, 2002

Ms. Elena Ruth Sassower
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.
P.O. Box 69
Gedney Station
White Plains, N.Y. 10605-0069

Re: Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL") Request/Ref.# 01-300-A

Dear Mr. Sassower:

I write in response to your FOIL request dated December 18, 2001, in which, pursuant to FOIL, you request:

- (i) Publicly-accessible documents relating to joint investigations of former New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams and former State Comptroller Edward Regan into public administrators appointed by Surrogate Court judges, conducted in the second half of the 1980's and early 1990's.
- (ii) Any documents relating to proposals and recommendations for reform and improvement stemming from these investigations and reports that the State Attorney General and State Comptroller directed to our State's Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Leaders, as well as documents pertaining to ongoing oversight of public administrators and Surrogates' Court by the Officers of the Attorney General and State Comptroller.
- (iii) Publicly-accessible documents pertaining to investigations by the State Attorney General and State Comptroller, jointly or individually, into court-appointed receivers.

As we discussed in our telephone conversation last week, we have located two of the reports to which you refer in your December 18th letter: *New York City Public Administrators: An Operational Review*, November 1987, and *A Joint Review by the State Comptroller and the*

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Attorney General of New York City Public Administrators: Estate Assets Continue to be At Risk,
July 1992.

Given that these reports were originally made available to the public free of charge without the need for a FOIL request, we are providing them to you now free of charge. With respect to the existence of any other documents responsive to your FOIL request, the New York State Department of Law does not maintain its records in a manner that would necessarily enable us, through reasonable efforts, to identify all documents responsive to your request. However, we shall undertake a search for additional responsive documents and produce to you any such documents we find that are not exempt from disclosure under FOIL.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss the status of our further response to your FOIL request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Robert Pigott, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Robert Pigott, Jr.
Assistant attorney general
Charities Bureau

cc. Ms. Sylvia Hamer