

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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BY FAX: 202-224-9102 (8 pages)
12:00 noon

August 3, 1998

Senate Judiciary Committee
Room 224, Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

ATT: Ryan, front office manager

RE: CITIZEN OPPOSITION TO SENATE CONFIRMATION OF ALVIN
K. HELLERSTEIN, DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT
OF NEW YORK

Dear Ryan:

Following up our telephone conversation this morning, enclosed is a copy of our July 30, 1998 fax to the Senate Judiciary Committee, sent to the attention of Leah Belaire. As discussed, despite our several phone messages for Ms. Belaire on Thursday and Friday, she has *not* returned our phone calls -- even to the limited extent of informing us when the record closes.

It is extremely urgent that I speak with Ms. Belaire so as to ascertain what investigation -- if any -- she conducted following my extensive telephone conversation with her on June 15th, when I detailed for her the evidentiary proof -- in the possession of the Senate Judiciary Committee -- establishing Alvin Hellerstein's unfitness for the federal judgeship to which President Clinton nominated him.

Our July 30th letter identifies that proof as our correspondence with Mr. Hellerstein, then Chairman of the City Bar's Judiciary Committee, about the City Bar's obligations to take corrective steps in the face of our critique, submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee in May 1992, which documentarily exposed the gross deficiencies of the procedures of the City Bar for reviewing federal judicial candidates -- as well as the grossly deficient procedures of other participants in the federal judicial screening process.

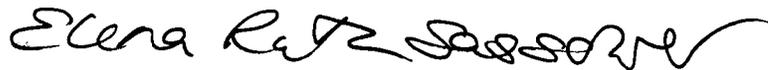
It is our intention to provide a written submission for review by the Committee's Senators at the Executive Session meeting on this nomination. Please inform us of the date of such meeting -- which presumably would not take place until the Senate returns from recess on September 1st. Plainly, we

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do not wish to be put to the expense and effort of reproducing the critique and the compendia of our correspondence relating to it, if Ms. Belaire was able to access these documents from the Senate Judiciary Committee's files, to wit, the Senate Judiciary Committee's May 21, 1996 hearing on "The Role of the American Bar Association in the Judicial Selection Process".

Inasmuch as we communicated with *both* the ABA and City Bar late last year about Mr. Hellerstein's prospective nomination, we also request information as to the date on which those organizations approved Mr. Hellerstein. The nonfeasance of the ABA and City Bar following those communications is further confirmatory of their unworthiness as key players in the federal judicial screening process, which our critique documented more than six years ago.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

Enclosure: CJA's 7/30/98 ltr with enclosure

cc: Free Congress Foundation
Alliance for Justice
Citizens for Independent Courts