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CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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White Plains, New York 10605

By Fax: 202-224-9102

By Certified Mail/RRR: P-801-449-638

April 26, 1996

United States Senate Judiciary Committee
Room 224, Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

ATT: B. J. Runyon, Nominations Clerk

RE: Opposition to District Court Nominee Lawrence E. Kahn
Northern District, New York

Dear Mr. Runyon:

This letter follows up our telephone notification to you on April 19, 1996 that we wish to testify in strenuous opposition to confirmation of Lawrence E. Kahn as District Court Judge for the Northern District of New York.

You had no information as to when the Senate Judiciary Committee would be scheduling a confirmation hearing on this nominee, but assured us that we would be promptly notified as soon as a date was set.

You also assured us--in answer to our request for the public portion of Justice Kahn's responses to the Senate Judiciary Committee questionnaire--that it would be sent to us as soon as the Committee receives it.

However, you were unsure as to whether the Senate Judiciary Committee could provide us with information as to Justice Kahn's rating by the American Bar Association. You indicated that it has been the Senate Judiciary Committee's policy to only make the ABA rating available at the time of the confirmation hearing. Please confirm that, in fact, that is the policy and inform us as to how long it has been in effect. Frankly, such policy seems inexplicable to us. We, therefore, would additionally request to know the reason the ABA's rating--upon which the President of the United States relies in making his nomination--is not made publicly available once the nomination is announced.

In our conversation, I also asked that the Senate Judiciary Committee add the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. to the list of organizations and groups that it notifies when it receives judicial nominations. You told me, however, that the

EX "E"

Senate Judiciary Committee does not notify organizations and groups of judicial nominations. Kindly inform us what, if any, outreach is done by the Senate Judiciary Committee to maximize public participation on these nominations.

If the Senate Judiciary Committee has any informational materials about the process by which judges are nominated and confirmed to the federal bench, we would appreciate copies, as well as any written guidelines by which it evaluates the qualifications of federal judicial nominees.

For your information, a copy of the Center's brochure is enclosed.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

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

Enclosures

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Senate Judiciary
Room 224
Dirksen Senate Office
Washington, DC 20510
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Washington, DC 20510
Attn: B.J. Runyon

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