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November 1, 2006

Chairman John A. DeFrancisco
New York State Senate Judiciary Committee
307 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

ATT: Carole Luther, Chief of Staff

RE: The Senate Judiciary Committee's Procedures:
Transcripts of Confirmation "Hearings" to the New York Court of Appeals

Dear Ms. Luther:

This responds to your October 24, 2006 letter, advising that my paying \$.25 per page for the stenographic transcript of the Senate Judiciary Committee's September 14, 2006 hearing to confirm Justice Pigott's nomination to the New York Court of Appeals is "consistent with Senate Rule XIV and Article VI of the Public Officers Law".

Does this mean that the Senate Judiciary Committee does not provide free copies of the transcript to witnesses who testify – or at least the pages of their testimony – in recognition of the public service they rendered the Committee by testifying?

Before forwarding the indicated \$20.25 for the 81 transcript pages, please confirm that the Committee is also charging \$.25 per page to the other witnesses who testified at the September 14, 2006 hearing, as well as to Justice Pigott – and not providing the transcript to them, either whole or in part, free of charge.

To avoid further delay, please respond by fax and/or e-mail. Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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