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April 14, 2006

Shorenstein Fellow Charles Lewis  
c/o The Fund for Independence in Journalism  
1250 24<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20037

RE: Assisting your reconsideration of your April 13<sup>th</sup> e-mail

Dear Mr. Lewis,

Thank you for your apologies in the first and last sentences of your April 13<sup>th</sup> e-mail to me. However, do you truly believe your intervening two paragraphs are an appropriate response?

To assist your reconsideration, I herein elaborate:

As to the first of these paragraphs, no fair reading of my April 12<sup>th</sup> letter supports a view that I took your non-response "personally" – or that I reacted with "threats or vituperation".

As to the second of these paragraphs, no fair reading of my February 28<sup>th</sup> letter -- and the C-Span "Q & A" interview of you to which it refers – could support your inference that I don't know that you "no longer run an investigative reporting organization" or that I am unaware that the "principal mission" of the Fund for Independence in Journalism is "as a legal defense and endowment support organization for the Center for Public Integrity and possibly other journalistic entities." My February 28<sup>th</sup> letter also makes explicit that your June 8, 2001 written commentary "*Judiciary Should Let Sunshine In To Reduce Public Skepticism*", accessible *via* The Center for Public Integrity's website, is the source of your comments about the judiciary. It has nothing to do with your "merely convers[ing] about the judiciary in response to a single question in an hour-long, public interview three months ago – no more, no less".

As to your statement that you and those under your direction "have investigated judges" this is not responsive to the assertion in my February 28<sup>th</sup> letter (at p. 2) – repeated in my April 12<sup>th</sup> letter – as to the existence of a "*modus operandi* among 'investigative reporters' and top managerial and editorial levels of the news media to reject scrutinizing judges and the judiciary in any meaningful, systematic way...". Nor is it even responsive to the observation of my February 28<sup>th</sup> letter (at p. 2) that your

June 8, 2001 written commentary appears to be the extent of The Center for Public Integrity's contribution with respect to "judicial selection", "judicial discipline" and "judicial corruption"<sup>1</sup>.

In view of your recognition that "judicial, as part of overall political accountability certainly is a crucial issue for any democratic society, and should certainly be in ours", nothing more should be needed for you to alert The Center for Public Integrity and other journalistic entities to the primary source documents presented by my February 28<sup>th</sup> letter – where you have not denied or disputed that this documentary evidence establishes systemic governmental corruption involving the processes of judicial selection and discipline and such powerful public officers as Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer – covered-up by an election-rigging press. Alerting these organizations is what my February 28<sup>th</sup> letter explicitly requested (at p. 4) – and not, as your e-mail implies, that The Fund for Independence in Journalism itself investigate the judiciary, which would appear to be the meaning of your assertion "There is nothing judicial about the Fund, nor likely to be".

Finally, as to **your emphatic assertion** that the book you are writing "is not about and will not be addressing judicial issues", is it your contention that you can *responsibly* write about "power, the news media, and the people's right to know" – let alone "what is the role of journalism exactly when it comes to truth" – without confronting – or perhaps even identifying – unrefuted and irrefutable documentary evidence establishing

"the media's knowing and deliberate violation of 'the people's right to know' with respect to judicial corruption, the corruption of judicial selection and discipline – and the complicity of public officers, including those seeking re-election and further public office" (at p. 1).

– where, additionally, your book is being underwritten by an academic institution of the caliber of the Joan Shorenstein Center for the Press, Politics, and Public Policy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government by its fellowship to you.

Moreover, as to this unrefuted and irrefutable documentary evidence, is it also your contention that you have no responsibility -- journalistic, academic, or civic-- to bring it to the attention of "media critics and academic institutions", as my February 28<sup>th</sup> letter also expressly asked (at p. 4), specifying the Shorenstein Center.

On Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, you will be speaking on "Investigative Journalism: The Real Thing" to the students in Alex Jones' class on "Press, Politics, and Public Policy". Is it your view that these up and coming journalists, government leaders, political operatives, and policy makers – on whom the future of our democracy rests -- should be kept in the dark as to the serious and substantial content of my February 28<sup>th</sup> letter to you – and of CJA's groundbreaking lawsuit against The New York Times,

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<sup>1</sup> Indeed, Julie Manes, with whom I spoke on February 28<sup>th</sup> before sending you my letter, told me that she believed that The Center for Public Integrity had not addressed these issues – a belief she based on having been a member of the Center's staff.

April 14, 2006

whose verified complaint was mailed to Professor Jones on April 5<sup>th</sup>, with an express request that he share it with you.

I await your considered answers to the foregoing – and thank you, in advance.

Yours for a quality judiciary,  
responsible journalism, and academic integrity,



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

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