

# CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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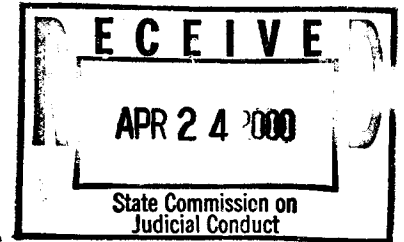
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*Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator*

BY HAND

April 24, 2000

New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct  
801 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10017



ATT: Gerald Stern, Administrator & Counsel

RE: Request for legal authority authorizing the Commission to discard judicial misconduct complaints

Dear Mr. Stern:

Reference is made to your April 18, 2000 letter to George Sassower, in which you purport that copies of the Commission's letters notifying him of its dismissals of his judicial misconduct complaints are "not available since those files have been discarded".


Please advise as to the legal authority authorizing the Commission to discard files of judicial misconduct complaints, including the Commission's promulgated rules and procedures relative thereto. I see nothing in Article 2-A of the Judiciary Law or 22 NYCRR §7000 *et seq.* on the subject.

Presumably, such legal authority specifies a time period within which the Commission is required to retain judicial misconduct complaints, such as those less than 15 years old. This, in addition to other considerations governing retention of complaints, such as whether the complained-against judge continues to sit on the bench and thus remains a potential subject of future judicial misconduct complaints of which the earlier complaint might be deemed part of a pattern of behavior.

Most, if not all, of Mr. Sassower's judicial misconduct complaints fall within at least one of these two categories.

April 24, 2000

Yours for a quality judiciary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elena Ruth Sassower". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

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

cc: George Sassower