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NEW YORK STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
39 Columbia Street
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Richard Rifkin
Executive Director

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April 19, 1994

Ms. Elena Ruth Sassower
Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability
Box 69 Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Dear Ms. Sassower:

As the State Ethics Commission's new Executive Director, I am responding to your April 8, 1994 letter addressed to Thea Hoeth. On November 26, 1993, Ms. Hoeth had advised you that the Commission had concluded its inquiry into allegations you made concerning the conduct of the New York State Board of Elections with respect to the nomination of certain judges in the Ninth Judicial District. You now are requesting that the Commission provide you with details concerning its investigation.

Executive Law §94 governs Commission investigations and provides for complete confidentiality. In fact, the only Commission records available for public inspection are listed in §94(17)(a); the Commission's investigative records are not included. This protects the privacy rights of the subjects of investigations where reasonable cause to believe a violation of the law has not been found. Consequently, we are unable to comply with your request for documents.

With respect to your request to address the Commission personally, Commission meetings are not open to the public. See Executive Law §94(17)(b).

This matter has been and remains closed. It is confidential in its entirety.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Rifkin".