

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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By Fax: 914-696-8396
By Hand

December 5, 1995

Richard Liebson, Columnist
Gannett Suburban Newspapers
1 Gannett Drive
White Plains, New York 10604

RE: Gannett's follow-up to "Sea Star"

Dear Mr. Liebson:

This is to memorialize the content of our phone conversation--concluded a short time ago.

After I identified myself and asked whether you had received the phone message I had left for you yesterday, you confirmed that you had and stated: "I've been told that I can't speak with you." You then hung up the phone, saying "thank you" as I tried to ask who had given you such instruction.

Within thirty seconds, I called you again--and got your answering machine on which I recited the foregoing content of our conversation.

For your information, immediately thereafter, I telephoned Milt Hoffman--but got his answering machine. I left a message inquiring whether he knew anything about what you had said you had been "told". I also inquired whether he had passed on our materials to Ken Paulson--as he promised he would do when I spoke to him last Thursday at "Sea Star" when Gannett purported to be "fishing" for story ideas. Among the materials I gave Mr. Hoffman¹ was the brochure of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.--with enclosures--a copy of which I also gave you when I first introduced myself to you at that time.

Although neither I, my mother, nor the Center are mentioned in your column yesterday about the "Sea Star" gathering, I personally spoke with you for several minutes--as did my mother. You stated you knew nothing about the Center or about the local

¹ Including full copies of the testimony we had presented two days earlier to the Second Circuit's Task Force on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts.

group from which it grew, the Ninth Judicial Committee, and you expressed great interest in seeing documentary proof of the kind I described. This included proof that our election law challenge to the trading of judges in the Ninth Judicial District had been torpedoed by judicial decisions that were factually fabricated and violated elementary adjudicatory standards and proof of Andrew O'Rourke's unfitness for the federal judgeship to which he had been nominated by President Bush.

You will recall that you claimed to be entirely unaware of our documentary critique, which exposed, to boot, the serious deficiencies of the federal judicial screening process--and were particularly skeptical about my assertions that report of it had been suppressed by Gannett.

As you know, I invited you for lunch or coffee at the Center's headquarters so that you could become acquainted with the important work we are doing and confirm, by dispositive documentary proof, Gannett's deliberate and malicious suppression from of our ground-breaking activities.

You told me that I should call you on Monday (December 4th) at about 10:30 in the morning--and, somewhere between that time and 11:00 a.m. yesterday, I did call you--leaving a message on your answering machine.

That message you confirmed you had received at the outset of our aforementioned brief and unsettling telephone conversation today.

Should the foregoing recitation--as it relates to you--not comport with your recollection, please specify the respects in which it does not. Unlike Gannett, we try to be honest and accurate in the work we do.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

cc: Gannett editors and staff participating at its 11/30/95
"Sea Star" gathering:
Gayle Williams, Readers' Editor
Milt Hoffman, Senior Editor
Nancy Blair, Local Editor
Mark Land, Business Editor
Frank Becerra, Jr., photographer
Leah Rae, reporter
Kenneth Paulson, Gannett Vice-President and Executive Editor