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February 12, 2003

Professor Alan S. Chartock, Publisher & Project Director
The Legislative Gazette
Albany, New York

RE: Proposal for your "Publisher's Corner", etc

Dear Professor Chartock,

Following up my phone call to you a short time ago, enclosed is my January 28, 2003 letter to The Legislative Gazette's Assistant Editor, James Gormley. As you can see, it presented a proposal for your "Publisher's Corner", based on what transpired at the January 22nd Senate Judiciary Committee "hearing" on the confirmation of Judge Susan Read to the Court of Appeals.

In addition to The Legislative Gazette's own tape recording of the "hearing" -- "obviously, the best evidence as to what occurred" -- I will gladly provide you with a copy of the "hearing" transcript, which I ordered from the Committee and which I should be receiving shortly.

Meantime, enclosed is the five-page transcript of the Senate floor proceedings, held immediately following the "hearing", at which Chairman DeFrancisco affirmatively misrepresented:

"All speakers who spoke on [Judge Read's] qualifications gave her glowing recommendations and glowing review."

If you do not have a copy of my January 22, 2003 written statement, with appendix documents -- notwithstanding my January 28th letter -- I will mail you a duplicate. Please let me know. Meantime, I will e-mail you the 9-page statement, without the appendix.

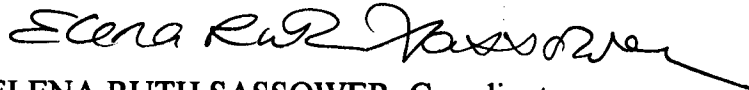
Please be advised that following the "hearing", I went to Chairman DeFrancisco's office. In addition to requesting that copies of my written statement, with appendix documents, be distributed to each and every committee member, I requested a meeting with Chairman DeFrancisco to discuss the serious and substantial issues the statement presents, which he had deemed not relevant to the "hearing".

I have received no response – and have since sent a follow-up letter. I would be pleased to provide you with a copy so that, on behalf of the public interest, your "Publisher's Corner" can call upon Chairman DeFrancisco and Senate Judiciary Committee members to schedule such meeting, without delay. I would be glad to invite the People of this State to the meeting, via The Legislative Gazette.

After you review my written statement, I would greatly appreciate if you would share it with Chairman Gerald Benjamin so that it can serve as a catalyst for much-needed scholarship and sweeping reform based thereon.

With sincerest thanks.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures

P.S. In the event you did not see last Friday's New York Times editorial observer, "*The New York Process: How Not to Get Heard at a Legislative Hearing*", with its "FIXING ALBANY" logo, a copy is enclosed.