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BY FAX: 518-426-6036 (12 pages)

November 2, 2000

New York Law Journal/ John Caher

RE:

Vindicating the public's right to "merit selection" to the NY Court

of Appeals

Dear John:

Bravo again on what I hope is only a first-installment of an examination into the "merit selection" process to the NYS Court of Appeals – perhaps the first ever in its 20-plus year history in this the "Excelsior State"!

You can count on CJA to provide you with all possible assistance to enable you to make such important contribution.

As discussed, enclosed is Daniel Wise's front-page story on the Commission on Judicial Nomination in the July 24, 1992 <u>Law Journal</u>. Obviously, a breach in "confidentiality" enabled him to write about substantial numbers of the applicant pool. As discussed, "confidentiality" is a creature of statute, NOT the constitutional amendment passed by the voters in 1977.

On the subject of the statute, enclosed is a rather striking letter written by Assemblyman Charles Henderson, dated May 10, 1978, which is part of the Bill Jacket.

Finally, enclosed is a relevant point-counterpoint from today's USA Today.

Regards.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

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

PS. Hope you'll follow-up on the FOIL idea for the Commission's expenses, etc. – which should be for as many years as are available.

Enclosures