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*Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator*

BY FAX: 212-556-3717 (12 pages)

BY HAND

January 7, 2000

Mr. John Sullivan  
The New York Times  
New York, New York

RE: The Truth Behind Eliot Spitzer's "Public Integrity Unit":  
An Investigation on the Occasion of its First Anniversary

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

In less than 3 weeks, Attorney General Spitzer's "public integrity unit" will celebrate its first anniversary – providing a timely occasion to follow-up your August 26, 1999 front-page Metro story, "*Spitzer Sets Up Unit to Investigate Both State and Local Corruption*".

As I stated to you on the very day your story appeared – and equally true today – Attorney General Spitzer's "public integrity unit" is a hoax. Likewise, his commitment to rooting out systemic governmental corruption – the purpose for which the unit was intended.

CHECK the Attorney General's website. After Mr. Spitzer's January 27, 1999 announcement at the City Bar of his "public integrity unit", the media-conscious Mr. Spitzer issued NO press release about it. This includes NO press release of his designation of Peter Pope to be its head and William Casey as its chief investigator, as reported in your August 26<sup>th</sup> article. Nor is there a single press release reporting on the unit's activities – or achievements. Indeed, my search of the Attorney General's website for his "public integrity unit" on January 4, 2000 produced only one entry out of 1563. This entry, part of the Attorney General's PR for his "First Hundred Days In Office", claims that the Attorney General is "Developing a Public Integrity Unit to investigate allegations of wrongdoing and corruption by those in public office across the state". This, as of April 12, 1999 -- with NO further particulars then or thereafter.

CJA has more than a year's worth of continuous first-hand experience with Attorney General Spitzer and his "public integrity unit" -- *memorialized in documentation* –

establishing that the "public integrity unit" is a front behind which Mr. Spitzer has been knowingly covering up systemic governmental corruption, reaching this state's most powerful public officials and important oversight agencies. This documentation – which includes CJA's fact-specific, document-supported ethics complaints against Mr. Spitzer, filed with the NYS Ethics Commission<sup>1</sup>, and CJA's criminal complaints against Mr. Spitzer, filed with the Manhattan D.A., with the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and with the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York -- is ALL encompassed in my pending case against the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct, which Mr. Spitzer has been defending with litigation misconduct. Indeed, within that case, a motion has been made for the Court to sanction Mr. Spitzer *personally* and to refer him for disciplinary and criminal prosecution for misconduct which rises to a level of criminality and which would be ground for disbarment, if committed by a private attorney.

This is reflected by my enclosed unpublished Letter to the Editor of *The Times* – responding to both your August 26<sup>th</sup> story about the "public integrity unit" AND David Rohde's August 28, 1999 column, "*If a Judge Gets Out of Line: Seeking a Cure*". It is also reflected by my enclosed unexpurgated Letter to the Editor of the *Daily News*, responding its September 12, 1999 editorial, which, I believe lifted Mr. Spitzer's quote about eliminating public cynicism from YOUR article. A copy of that editorial and the *Daily News*' expurgation of my Letter, which it printed under the title, "*Who Judges the Judges?*", are enclosed.

Additionally enclosed is the transcript of my January 27, 1999 public exchange with Mr. Spitzer at the City Bar (at pp. 13-14), just moments after he announced his "public integrity unit" (at pp. 7-8), as well as the \$3,000 ad, "*Restraining 'Liars in the Courtroom' and on the Public Payroll*" (NYLJ, 8/27/97), to which my remarks refer (at p. 13). The ad – as my remarks – focus on the *modus operandi* of fraudulent defense tactics used by Mr. Spitzer's predecessor Attorneys General in defending judges and the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct.

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<sup>1</sup> On August 26<sup>th</sup>, I hand-delivered to *The Times* a copy of CJA's March 26, 1999 ethics complaint against Mr. Spitzer, under a coverletter for you. Mr. Spitzer's fraudulent defense tactics in TWO separate cases against the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct has necessitated two supplements to that ethics complaint: the first based on his defense fraud in *Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., acting pro bono publico, against Commission on Judicial Conduct of the State of New York* (NY Co. #99-108551); the second based on his defense fraud in *Michael Mantell v. NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct* (NY Co. #99-108655).

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As the transcript reflects, Mr. Spitzer publicly stated that "anything that is submitted to us we will look at it" (at p. 13). The evidentiary materials that I handed to Mr. Spitzer then and there (at p. 14) substantiated both the allegations of that ad – to which Mr. Spitzer's only response has been an identical *modus operandi* of defense fraud as his predecessors -- AND CJA's call for him to investigate the fraudulent nomination and confirmation of Albert Rosenblatt to our state's highest court, as reflected by CJA's December 28, 1998 Letter to the Editor in the New York Post, "*An Appeal to Fairness: Revisit the Court of Appeals*", a copy of which – like a copy of the ad -- was appended to a coverletter I handed Mr. Spitzer with those materials.

In view of the rapidly-approaching January 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mr. Spitzer's "public integrity unit", I hope that you will be able to schedule a meeting with me early next week. That way, you will have time to review copies of the coverletter and materials I presented to Mr. Spitzer on January 27, 1999 – constituting that unit's *first* two complaints of governmental corruption – as well as the documentary record of Mr. Spitzer's extraordinary nonfeasance and misfeasance in response thereto.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures