

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

P.O. Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Tel. (914) 421-1200
Fax (914) 428-4994

E-Mail: judgewatch@aol.com
Web site: www.judgewatch.org

Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY FAX: 212-223-1942 (15 pages)

June 18, 2001

Paul Shechtman, Chairman
Governor Pataki's State Judicial Screening Committee

RE: Governor Pataki's Reappointment of Judge William A. Wetzel to the Court of Claims, Scheduled for a Senate Judiciary Committee Confirmation Hearing on Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Dear Chairman Shechtman:

Enclosed is CJA's June 17, 2001 letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee – to which you are an indicated recipient.

For your convenience, I direct your attention to the following paragraph in bold-faced type on page 7:

By copy of this letter to both Ms. Weiner and Chairman Shechtman, CJA calls upon them to identify *whether*, in fact, they ever apprised the State Judicial Screening Committee's membership of CJA's February 23, 2000 letter opposing consideration of Judge Wetzel– and *whether* they themselves examined the lower court record in *E.R. Sassower v. Commission* or arranged for it to be examined as part of the "thorough inquiry" and "thorough investigation" which the State Judicial Screening Committee is required to do of each candidate, pursuant to Executive Order 10.1, ¶2c, as well as the "Uniform Rules for N.Y.S. Judicial Screening Committees"⁷, Section VIII, ¶4.

⁷ The Governor's Executive Order creating his judicial screening committees expressly allows the Committee to make disclosure to the Senate in connection with its confirmation function [See Executive Order No. 10.1, ¶2d]. Likewise, his "Uniform Rules for N.Y.S. Judicial Screening Committees" [See Rule XIV "Confidentiality"].

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Paul Shechtman, Chairman

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So as not to overburden your fax, the exhibits to the letter will be supplied with the hard-copy, which I will hand-deliver to the Governor's office on Wednesday morning before the Senate Judiciary Committee's scheduled June 20, 2001 confirmation hearing. Should the hearing be postponed, I will mail the full letter to the Governor's office.

Meantime, an inventory of the exhibits is annexed. Should you wish to see any of these exhibits before Wednesday, please telephone and I will fax them to you.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

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

Enclosures

cc: Senate Judiciary Committee

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

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TEL : 9144211200

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