



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Washington, DC 20530

APR 12 1999

Ms. Elena Ruth Sassower
and Ms. Doris L. Sassower
283 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606-3821

Dear Mlles. Sassower:

The Public Integrity Section has carefully reviewed your letter of July 27, 1998, and the box of materials that you enclosed with it, as well as your September 4, 1998, letter and enclosed materials. You allege that the judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit engaged in criminal corruption in order to protect New York State officials who were the subject of a civil lawsuit alleging corruption and civil rights violations relating to the suspension of Doris L. Sassower's New York State law license. You contend that the Second Circuit judges "threw" the case by deliberately making "dishonest decisions."

As your letter indicates, you have previously brought similar concerns to the attention of the Department of Justice on a number of occasions. Your letter quotes this Section's May 17, 1996, letter responding to similar allegations of judicial corruption. As was stated in this Section's letter to you, your dissatisfaction with a judge's ruling does not form a valid basis for a federal criminal investigation, unless there is evidence of the commission of a federal offense. We have reviewed the materials enclosed with your most recent letters, and they do not alter our conclusion that your allegations do not describe a potential criminal offense. Essentially, your letters and the materials enclosed with them contend that court rulings that have been handed down since the date of this Section's May 17, 1996, letter were incorrectly decided. This does not constitute evidence of a crime, despite your assertion that the rulings were so obviously incorrect that the judges must have known them to be "factually false and fraudulent [and] legally insupportable."


Ex "D"

Your letter also states your disagreement with the position of the Department of Justice relating to proposed legislation affecting complaints of judicial misconduct. The reasons underlying the Department's position are set out in the materials attached to your letter.

Your letter also expresses a concern about the timeliness of the annual reports of the Public Integrity Section to Congress. While we appreciate your concern over this issue, the Section produces the reports as promptly as is possible given the need for completeness and accuracy and the limited resources of the Section.

Thank you for writing to express your views. We are returning to you the materials that were enclosed with your letters.

Sincerely,


Jo Ann Farrington
Deputy Chief
Public Integrity Section

Enclosures