

Subject: Re: Center for Judicial Accountability's Long-Standing & Unresponded-to Complaints, embodied by our Unresponded-to December 1st Letter to You

Date: 12/24/2003, 4:12 PM

From: Public <public@nytimes.com>

To: [Elena Ruth Sassower <judgewatchers@aol.com>](mailto:Elena.Ruth.Sassower@judgewatchers@aol.com)

Dear Ms. Sassower,

Thank you for your message.

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner.

We have been swamped with correspondence since Daniel Okrent began his tenure, Dec. 1st.

Given the volume of reader comment; given the need to start with a clean slate; and given the difficulty of evaluating the paper's past deeds and alleged misdeeds, Daniel Okrent has decided as a matter of policy not to address issues that arose before his tenure began, except insofar as they relate to the paper's actions from December 1 forward. I am sure you will understand that, were we to do this any other fashion, we would disappear into an endless tunnel.

I do not mean to suggest in any way that I am not interested in your concerns about the paper.

If you see specific instances that concern you in the future please send me a message citing examples.

Sincerely,

Arthur Bovino

Office of the Public Editor

At 10:42 AM 12/24/2003 -0500, you wrote:

TO: Daniel Okrent, Public-Editor/Ombudsman
[The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com)

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
(914) 421-1200

This follows up my unsuccessful attempt to leave a phone message for you this past Monday (212-556-7652) -- when your voice mail was full -- and my equally unsuccessful attempt to leave a phone message this morning -- when an initial announcement that there would be 30 seconds to record a message was followed by a second announcement that there would be only 6.

I have received no response to my December 1st letter to you, enclosing copies of CJA's unresponded-to September 25th, October 13th, and November 1st letter-complaints to Bill Keller. This, notwithstanding I hand-delivered it to [The Times](http://www.nytimes.com) on November 29th so that it would be before you when you began your first day on the job, two days later. For your convenience, copies of this correspondence, with its enclosed unresponded-to letters to the Editorial Board, to Allan Siegal, and to Jill Abramson, are attached.

Today's irresponsible editorial, "*Better Judges for New York*", underscores the necessity that you address our unresponded-to complaints as to [Times](http://www.nytimes.com) editorializing on subjects about which it has steadfastly REFUSED to do the slightest investigative examination, as for example, its advocacy of so-called "merit based" judicial appointments.

Please advise.