

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Derek Osenenko
Editor

October 11, 2006

Elena Ruth Sassower
Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.
P.O. Box 8220
White Plains, New York 10602

Dear Ms. Sassower:

I have received your October 10 letter and have looked into your concerns. We take our responsibility to hear all sides of issues and criticisms of our staff members very seriously. I do appreciate your feedback, as does Journal News Editor Henry Freeman.

As you pointed out in your letter, there are problems with the way the state selects its judges. And as you indicated, Yancey Roy's column, from January 15, 2004, explored the hollow process Senate confirmation hearings have become. He has written often on this topic over the years.

As to your other points, reporters and editors must make decisions every day regarding what information to include in stories and what leads to pursue. Jay Gallagher tells us that when you and he first made contact more than a decade ago, he listened to your concerns and read much of the material you sent him, but found nothing suitable to either follow up on or include in stories. These types of judgment calls are made daily, often discussed with editors and colleagues and, as in this case, revisited when additional attention is brought to an issue or concern, as your letter has done.

Obviously, Mr. Gallagher and the other New York GNS Bureau reporters must decide how to maximize their time, and they have found what they consider more productive ways to pursue news.

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Page 2

You obviously have every right to disagree with the decisions they make. We respect that.

If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to give Mr. Gallagher a call. He can be reached at (518) 436-9781.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Osenenko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Derek Osenenko

DO/mm