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United States v. Elena Ruth Sassower -- "Disruption of Congress"

Elena Sassower's drafted intended opening statement, April 14, 2004 - interrupted by Judge Holeman's calling of marshals and threat of lock-up and refusal to permit its delivery to conclusion.

"The elementary proposition to be championed in the case...is that a citizen's respectful request to testify at a congressional committee's public hearing is not -- and must never be deemed to be -- 'disruption of Congress'. Yet the potential of the case goes beyond this important proposition. The evidence which, as part of my defense, I will be entitled to present...is so scandalous as to be a powerful catalyst to advance the salutary, non-partisan recommendations of Ralph Nader's Congress Project and Common Cause, long ago made, but unimplemented. These include recommendations for facilitating citizen participation in the process of selection of the lower federal judiciary and for substantiated bar ratings."

(Elena Sassower's June 16, 2003 letter to Ralph Nader, Public Citizen, & Common Cause, p. 3, underlining in the original) [view]

- -- 1975 Ralph Nader Congress Project book, The Judiciary Committees, pp. 240-241
- -- 1986 Common Cause report, Assembly-Line Approval, p. 29

-- 1988 Twentieth Century Fund book, Judicial Roulette, pp. 7-8

Analysis of the videotape & transcript of the Senate Judiciary Committee's May 22, 2003 confirmation "hearing"

-- Elena Sassower's May 30, 2003 letter to transcription company

http://web.archive.org/web/20040509124639/http://www.judgewatch.org/

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