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BY FAX: 518-434-6148 (22 pages)

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Jay Jochnowitz, Bureau Chief
Albany Times Union
Albany Bureau

RE: Tomorrow's Confirmation "Hearing" for Court of Claims Judge William A. Wetzel, Scheduled for Tomorrow, 10 a.m.

A case study of the Senate Judiciary Committee's *sham* confirmation "hearings", covering up Governor Pataki's *demonstrably fraudulent* "judicial selection process", as well as the *readily-verifiable corruption* of the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct

As discussed, Judge William A. Wetzel, "the cybersex judge" whose handling of the Oliver Jovanovic case was the subject of massive downstate coverage, including scathing criticism¹, is scheduled for a Senate Judiciary Committee "hearing" on his reappointment to the Court of Claims.

Enclosed is CJA's June 17th letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee², setting forth *document-supported* opposition, based on Judge Wetzel's fraudulent judicial decision "throwing" an

¹ See, *inter alia*, enclosed April 17, 1998 article, "Observers Say Judge Doomed Defense" in the New York Post, the May 30, 1998 and November 26, 1999 Post columns of Steve Dunleavy, as well as articles from the March 24, 1998 New York Times and Daily News.

² Page 4 of CJA's enclosed June 17th letter refers to our two reports on the Commission on Judicial Nomination's subversion of the "merit selection" process to the Court of Appeals and the Bar Associations' complicity therewith. I provided copies of these two reports to James Odato on November 29, 2000, following the "hearing" on Justice Graffeo's confirmation to the Court of Appeals -- at which I was barred from testifying. Mr. Odato's story about that "hearing", containing nothing about the substantive evidentiary support for the testimony I had wished to present, is enclosed. As discussed, I would appreciate if you would obtain from Mr. Odato the copies of those two reports -- which, when I spoke to him a short time ago, he stated were still in his office.

important public interest lawsuit against the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct, and requesting that I be permitted to testify at the Committee's confirmation "hearing", based on my *direct, first-hand experience* in that case. Although the Senate Judiciary Committee received the letter at 11:47 a.m. yesterday, it has still NOT contacted me, either as to the substance of CJA's opposition or about my request to testify. This, notwithstanding its confirmation "hearing" is scheduled for tomorrow at 10 a.m.

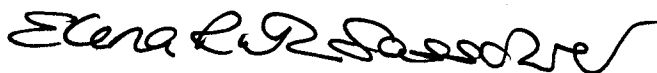
It is my belief that two other individuals have requested to testify in opposition to Judge Wetzel's confirmation, each based on their *direct, first-hand* experience with him. They are the individuals who, in 1999, each filed judicial misconduct complaints against Judge Wetzel with the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct. These complaints are reflected by footnote 12 to CJA's June 17th letter (at p. 9).

Based on the June 17th letter, I hope you will make follow-up inquiries with the Senate Judiciary Committee [518-455-2071], as well as with the indicated recipients of the letter -- all of whom received their copies yesterday by fax. This includes, most particularly, Nan Weiner, Executive Director/NYS Judicial Screening Committee [518-474-1289/212-681-4540] and James McGuire, Counsel to the Governor [518-474-8343]-- who should be asked, *inter alia*, whether, as requested the lower court record of the lawsuit "thrown" by Judge Wetzel's fraudulent decision is being transmitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Indeed, please also get their response, as well as that of Paul Shechtman, Chairman of the Governor's State Judicial Screening Committee [212-223-0200], to the two paragraphs in bold-faced type on pages 7 and 11 of the letter.

Needless to say, I would be pleased to provide you with documentary evidence, substantiating this story, in every respect.

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures