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BY FAX: 518-432-9603 (20 pages)

January 15, 2003

Andrew Tilghman
Albany Times Union

RE: Making 2003 the Year of Reform in Judicial Selection and
Discipline – CAN HAPPEN IF THE PRESS DOES ITS JOB

Dear Andrew:

Following up our conversation, enclosed is the August 28, 2002 published letter of A. Rene Hollyer, Chairman of the State Bar Association's Special Committee on Procedures for Judicial Discipline" – conspicuously making no reference to my comments about the Commission, identified by your July 26th article, "Gavel falls on judges". So that you can see for yourself how disingenuous Mr. Hollyer's published letter is, enclosed is my November 13, 2001 letter to him, requesting that the Special Committee confront the EVIDENCE of the Commission's corruption, *readily verifiable* from the transmitted file of my public interest lawsuit – and Mr. Hollyer's responding April 22, 2002 letter, making no comment about it;

I believe Mr. Hollyer was at the December 11, 2002 "Judging the Judges" forum on the Commission – as I saw his name tag at the registration table when I arrived. [*hint, hint... check it out – and get his response to my statement and questions*].

Also enclosed is my transcription of my statement and two questions at the December 11, 2002 forum – to which there was NO answer from the sponsoring State Bar Association or the Fund for Modern Courts (and likewise no answer to the questions from the Commission). YOU WOULD BE PERFORMING A REAL PUBLIC SERVICE BY FOLLOWING-UP AND GETTING THEIR ANSWERS. To facilitate this, I left at the State Bar a copy of State Comptroller

Regan's 1989 report about the Commission, "*Not Accountable to the Public*", the two-carton file of my public interest lawsuit against the Commission, as well as copies of my correspondence, including with Mr. Hollyer. Additionally, I gave, *in hand*, to Ken Jockers, the Fund's Executive Director, copies of my October 24, 2002 motion for leave to appeal and my October 15, 2002 reargument motion, as well as copies of my past correspondence with the Fund regarding the Commission and my lawsuit against it.

The significance of my October 24, 2002 motion for leave in placing before the Court of Appeals the record evidence that the Commission is the beneficiary of FIVE fraudulent lower court decisions without which it would NOT have survived -- may be seen from the enclosed pages 3, 6, 21-22 -- whose salient text I have asterisked for your convenience.

By the way, in the event you did not see the Legislative Gazette's article about the December 11th forum, "*Judicial conduct panelists hear complaint*" -- which properly spotlighted my participation -- a copy is enclosed.

Finally, enclosed is my yesterday's letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman DeFrancisco, requesting a meeting, requesting to testify in opposition to Judge Read's confirmation to the Court of Appeals, and requesting publicly-available info as to her "well qualified" rating, etc. You are first in the press to have it.

Stay tuned for fireworks.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures

Andrew Tilghman
Albany Times
Union

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