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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY FEDERAL EXPRESS 1140-3268-9

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Jay Gallagher, Albany Bureau Chief

Gannett

150 State Street

Albany, New York 12224

RE: Upholding the Public's Right to "Hear" and "Be Heard" at the Upcoming Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on Justice Graffeo's Confirmation to the New York Court of Appeals

Dear Jay:

As discussed, events in Florida underscore the significance of a state's highest court – and the value of a series of stories examining “merit selection” appointment/confirmation to New York's Court of Appeals, for which, 23 years ago, New Yorkers gave up their right to elect their highest state judges.

To enable you to develop such important series, enclosed are the following:

(1) CJA's November 13th letter to Justice Graffeo and Chairman Lack, calling upon them to safeguard the public's right to “hear” and “be heard” at the upcoming Senate confirmation hearing and to themselves address the serious issues presented by CJA's October 16, 2000 report on the Commission on Judicial Nomination's subversion of the “merit selection” principles – beginning with its violative October 4, 2000 report of recommendees.

(2) CJA's November 13, 2000 report on “The Complicitous Role of the Bar Associations in the Corruption of ‘Merit Selection’ Appointment to the New York Court of Appeals”, exposing their rigged and fraudulent ratings of the recommendees

(3) CJA's November 14th letter to the First Department Disciplinary Committee initiating a formal complaint of professional misconduct against the four bar associations and the lawyers who participated in their rigged and fraudulent ratings of the recommendees.

(4) John Caher's front-page, above-the-fold story in the November 2nd New York Law Journal, “*Semi-Secret Court of Appeals Nominations Draw Criticism*”, based on Point I of CJA's October 16, 2000 report and Bob Schulz' October 30, 2000 letter to the Governor (copy

enclosed).

- (5) front-page item in November 15th New York Law Journal, "... Justice Graffeo is not expected to encounter any significant opposition at the confirmation hearing."

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures