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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY FAX: 212-210-1542 (17 pages)

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Mr. Juan Gonzalez
Daily News
New York, New York

RE: STORY PROPOSALS: (1) Political manipulation of appointive Court of Claims and other judgeships; (2) Manipulation of judicial assignments in the politically-explosive case against the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct by *Would-Be* Appellate Division Judge – now NY Supreme Court Administrative Judge -- Stephen Crane

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

As discussed, enclosed are:

- (1) CJA's January 14, 2000 letter to Patricia Bucklin, Director of the OCA's Office of Public Affairs for: (a) information about the number of Court of Claims judges who are "hold overs"; (b) legal authority for Court of Claims "hold overs" to be "successors" to themselves; (c) information about OCA's record-keeping on judicial terms [6 pages];
- (2) CJA's December 2, 1999 letter to Governor Pataki for: (a) the reason he has maintained Court of Claims Judge Wetzel as a "hold over"; (b) the identities of other Court of Claims "hold overs"; (c) the screening committee reports of the qualifications of ALL his judicial appointees pursuant to the Governor's OWN Executive Orders #10 and #11 and FOIL – as previously requested by CJA [3 pages]; (See also pp. 11-12 of my December 2nd letter to Judge Wetzel);
- (3) My December 2, 1999 letter to Administrative Judge Crane [himself currently seeking appointment by Governor Pataki to the Appellate Division] as to the basis upon which he TWICE interfered with the "random assignment" of my Article 78 proceeding against the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct [2 pages] (See also p. 10 of my December 2nd letter to Judge Wetzel);

- (4) Computerized docket sheet of the SEVEN judicial assignments in my Article 78 proceeding against the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct, reflecting Administrative Judge Crane's inserting himself (a) to remove the case from randomly-assigned Supreme Court Justice Carol Huff¹ in favor of Court of Claims-Acting Supreme Court Justice Ronald Zweibel (#3 and # 4); and (b) to direct the case to Court of Claims-Acting Supreme Court Justice Wetzel following the recusal of Acting Supreme Court Justice Barbara Kapnick (#7) [3 pages];
- (5) The November 5, 1999 Order of Acting Supreme Court Justice Kapnick, recusing herself for reasons unidentified and, pursuant to Administrative Judge Crane's "directive", assigning the case to Judge Wetzel [1 page].

My December 2, 1999 letter to Judge Wetzel, seeking his disqualification, will be faxed shortly, together with Clay Tiffany's May 21, 1999 judicial misconduct complaint against Judge Wetzel, which is an exhibit thereto.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

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

Enclosures

¹ As discussed, Carol Huff was the ONLY genuine Supreme Court justice to be assigned the Commission case – perhaps the reason she was “bumped” from it by Administrative Judge Crane.