

# CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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*Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator*

BY FAX: 212-608-1240 (15 pages)

March 10, 2000

Mr. David Rohde/The New York Times

RE: WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Dear David:

Today's metro section (B6) prints two news stories, side-by-side, about two lawsuits alleging police misconduct -- one of which is identified as filed "yesterday".

Meantime, more than 6 months have elapsed since your front-page metro column "*If a Judge Gets Out of Line: Seeking a Cure*" (8/28/99), and John Sullivan's front-page metro story, "*Spitzer Sets Up Unit to Investigate Both State and Local Corruption*" (8/26/99), with NO report about the pending public interest lawsuit against the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct, defended with litigation fraud by New York's highest law enforcement officer, for which I supplied you and Mr. Sullivan with a raft of first-rate story proposals. **Please advise as to the status of these worthy story proposals – and my request to meet with your editors.**

Hopefully, you have read CJA's February 23, 2000 letter to the Governor, with its document-supported recitation of how Administrative Judge Crane "steered" the lawsuit to Justice Wetzel (at pp. 6-14), who then "threw" it by a fraudulent judicial decision (at pp. 15-29). Why don't you telephone the Governor's office<sup>1</sup> for a response? *Will the Governor, as requested* (at pp. 33-35), *appoint a Special Prosecutor or an investigative commission? If not, why not* -- in view of the *indisputable* case file evidence establishing the complete subversion of the judicial process not only in this lawsuit, but in two others against the Commission brought in Supreme Court/New York County?

Why don't you also get a response from some of the letter's many indicated recipients -- among them, Administrative Judge Crane (212-374-4726), Justice Wetzel (212-374-

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<sup>1</sup> James McGuire, Counsel to the Governor: 518-474-1310.

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8007), Attorney General Spitzer (212-416-8095)<sup>2</sup>, the Commission on Judicial Conduct (212-949-8860)<sup>3</sup>, and Chief Judge Judith Kaye (212-661-6787)<sup>4</sup>.

As to Chief Judge Kaye, CJA's February 23, 2000 letter was hand-delivered to her with a March 3, 2000 coverletter, requesting (at p. 2) that just as she appointed a "Special Inspector General" for fiduciary appointments, she appoint a "Special Inspector General" to investigate the Commission's corruption. A copy is enclosed. *Will she appoint a "Special Inspector General" – and if not, why not?*

Also enclosed is a copy of CJA's March 3, 2000 letter to the Commission on Judicial Conduct, constituting a *facially-meritorious*, fully-documented judicial misconduct against complaint against Justices Wetzel and Crane. How will the Commission address such complaint since it is the *direct* beneficiary of the judicial misconduct complained of? Will it, as requested (at pp. 3), support CJA's request for a Special Prosecutor, investigative commission, or "Special Inspector General"?

PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING. IT'S LONG PAST TIME THAT YOU EITHER INVITED ME TO *SIT DOWN* FOR AN INTERVIEW – OR TO A MEETING WITH YOUR EDITORS.

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures

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<sup>2</sup> David Nocenti, Counsel; *also* Peter Pope, Chief, "Public Integrity Unit" [212-416-8058].

<sup>3</sup> In addition to Gerald Stern, the Commission's Administrator and Counsel, you could also call the Commission's Chairman, Henry Berger [212-514-8888] or any of its 10 other members.

<sup>4</sup> *Also*, Manhattan District Attorney [Tom Wornam, Deputy Chief, Special Prosecutions Bureau: 212-335-9258] U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York [Andrew Dember, Chief, Public Corruption Unit: 212-637-2563]; New York State Ethics Commission [Donald Berens, Executive Director: 800-873-8442]; Association of the Bar of the City of NY [Alan Rothstein, General Counsel: 212-382-6623]; Patricia Salkin, Director/Government Law Center, Albany Law School: 518-445-2329]; Former Bronx Surrogate Bertram Gelfand [914-948-3900].