

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY PRIORITY MAIL

CERTIFIED/RRR: 7099-3400-0001-2734-2151

March 2, 2001

Patricia K. Bucklin, Counsel
Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence
in the Legal System
New York State Unified Court System
Empire State Plaza, 4ESP, Suite 2001
Albany, New York 12223-1450

RE: Placing CJA's November 13, 2000 Report on the Agenda of the Upcoming Meeting of the Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence in the Legal System

Dear Ms. Bucklin:

This is to formally request that CJA's November 13, 2000 report on "The Complicitous Role of the Bar Associations in the Corruption of 'Merit Selection' to the New York Court of Appeals" be placed on the agenda of next week's meeting of the Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence in the Legal System.

Such request follows our phone conversation together on February 28th and your receipt, by fax, of CJA's March 1st letter to Chief Judge Kaye (Exhibit "A"). To avoid delay caused by a less than prompt response from the Chief Judge to CJA's March 1st letter, enclosed is another copy of CJA's November 13, 2000 report.

Additionally enclosed is CJA's October 16, 2000 report to the bar associations on which the November 13, 2000 report is based, including the substantiating documents, contained in File Folders "A" and "B".

These two document-supported reports were filed with the First Department Disciplinary Committee under a November 14, 2000 letter to support a complaint of professional misconduct against the bar associations and the culpable lawyers acting on their behalf. A copy of that November 14, 2000 letter is enclosed, as is CJA's February 26, 2001 letter to the First Department Disciplinary Committee, particularizing the flagrant deficiencies of its response to that complaint.

EX "I-2"

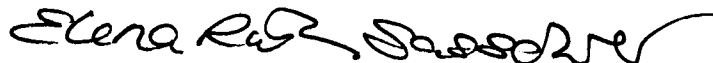
March 2, 2001

As particularized at page 28 of CJA's November 13, 2000 report, public trust and confidence require that the bar be held accountable for its complicity in the corruption of "merit selection" appointment to the Court of Appeals – as likewise the public officers and agencies whose corruption was the bar's duty to expose:

"To that end, the Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence in the Legal System must notify the First Department Disciplinary Committee that it endorses investigation of [CJA's complaint of professional misconduct against the bar associations and their culpable lawyers]. It must also do what the bar associations were requested to do by CJA's October 16, 2000 report: to call upon the Chief Judge, the Legislature, and the Governor – 'the appointing authorities who designate the members of both the Commission on Judicial Nomination and the Commission on Judicial Conduct – to launch an official investigation of these two state agencies on which so much of the judicial process and 'Rule of Law' in New York rest.'"

Needless to say, public trust and confidence require that the Committee adhere to fundamental conflict of interest rules. Among Committee members whose disqualification from consideration of CJA's November 13, 2000 report should be obvious to all concerned are, *inter alia*, Barry Kamins, Esq. and Committee Co-Chair William Thompson, each disqualified by reason of their direct interest.¹

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures: As indicated plus CJA's informational brochure

cc: Institute on Professionalism in the Law
First Department Disciplinary Committee

¹ Their self-interests are highlighted by December 9, 2000 letter to Chief Judge Kaye – a copy of which is annexed to CJA's March 1, 2001 to her (Exhibit "A" herein).

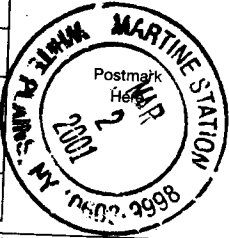
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*Patricia K. Bucklin
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