

## CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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*Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator*

BY FAX: 718-624-5626 (22 pages)

July 3, 2000

Barry Kamins, Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
Association of the Bar of the City of New York  
c/o Flamhaft, Levy, Kamins & Hirsch  
16 Court Street  
New York, New York 11241

RE: The City Bar's professional responsibilities relative to: (a) its rating approving Susan K. Knipps to the civil court and; (2) ensuring the integrity of the July 6<sup>th</sup> "Public Hearing" of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary with respect to Ms. Knipps' appointment

Dear Mr. Kamins:

Thank you for your phone call first thing this morning. I was most disappointed that the materials I left for you on Friday afternoon at the City Bar had not been messengered to you since I had spent at least 20 minutes on Friday, explaining to Dennis Cariello, the City Bar's Presidential Fellow, the exigent need for them to be messengered, in the event that you were unable to pick up them up by the time the City Bar closed.

Indeed, but for the fact that I felt confident that Mr. Cariello would not leave them at the City Bar over the long July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend when the City Bar was closed -- a fact I repeatedly discussed with Mr. Cariello, who I understood was going to discuss it with President Davis -- I did not myself deliver the materials to your Brooklyn law office, as I had thought to do. As I was thereafter headed to the Office of Court Administration on Beaver Street, I could have easily made your law office my next stop.

So that you can begin reviewing the materials I left with Mr. Cariello, faxed herewith is CJA's June 30<sup>th</sup> letter to Chief Judge Kaye, outlining CJA's opposition to Ms. Knipps' appointment. Actually, it is a superseding version to the letter I left



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with Mr. Cariello. The relevant changes are highlighted in CJA's July 3<sup>rd</sup> letter to the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary, which is also enclosed.

Since the original of the June 30<sup>th</sup> letter appends the relevant exhibits, I would appreciate if on Wednesday you would obtain from Mr. Cariello those exhibits -- as well as CJA's 1992 critique of the federal judicial screening process and May 26, 1992 coverletter to then President Feerick, which I also left with him.

Please note the penultimate paragraphs of CJA's June 30<sup>th</sup> letter, which I pointed out to Mr. Cariello:

"Inasmuch as the City Bar, by its Judiciary Committee, has approved Ms. Knipps' candidacy, copies of this letter will be delivered to President Davis AND to Judiciary Committee Chairman Barry Kamins. By this letter, CJA requests that Chairman Kamins *immediately* obtain the copies of CJA's March 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> letters to you, CJA's February 23<sup>rd</sup> letter to Governor Pataki, and the supporting Article 78 files -- all in the City Bar's possession -- as well as the voluminous materials that CJA long ago provided to the City Bar relating to our January 7, 1998 and February 1, 1998 letters to you. This, so that the City Bar's Judiciary Committee can meet its ethical duty to reconsider and retract its improvidently issued approval of Ms. Knipps. Chairman Kamins should be particularly sensitive to the Committee's ethical duty, as he also chairs the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Professional Responsibility.

To enable the Mayor's Advisory Committee to meaningfully question Ms. Knipps at the July 6<sup>th</sup> "public hearing", copies of CJA's March 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> letters are being supplied to it with this letter. Additionally supplied is a copy of CJA's February 23<sup>rd</sup> letter to the Governor, which Ms. Knipps received with the March 3<sup>rd</sup> letter (Exhibits "C-2" and "C-4"). Should the Mayor's Advisory Committee wish to review the substantiating three Article 78 files or the voluminous material supporting CJA's January 7, 1998 and February 1, 1998 letters in advance of the July 6<sup>th</sup> "hearing", CJA will promptly furnish copies. In any event, CJA requests that Chairman Kamins arrange that the City Bar's copies be brought to




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the "hearing" so that members of the Mayor's Advisory Committee may examine them at that time. As the "hearing" is at the City Bar, such request should not be unduly burdensome."

Unless the massive evidentiary materials hereinabove referred-to have been transmitted to President Davis, in conjunction with his review of CJA's June 20, 2000 letter to him – a copy of which I showed you in Alan Rothstein's office on that date – they are in Mr. Rothstein's possession, as well as in the possession of the Judiciary Committee's predecessor Chairman, Daniel Kolb.

Parenthetically, I again urge you – much as I did on June 20<sup>th</sup> when we spoke – to review CJA's June 20<sup>th</sup> letter to President Davis – and the two huge compendium of CJA's correspondence with the City Bar over the past decade. The issues which that letter presents of the City Bar's professional responsibilities are intertwined and relevant to the City Bar's present professional responsibilities.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elena Ruth Sassower", followed by a checkmark.

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

Enclosures