

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605

By Certified Mail: RRR
P-624-546-595

March 14, 1995

Charles Hynes, Esq.
District Attorney, Kings County
Municipal Building
Brooklyn, New York 11201

RE: Official Misconduct by Dennis Hawkins,
Chief, Corruption Investigation Division

Dear Mr. Hynes:

This is to register a formal complaint against Dennis Hawkins, Chief of your so-called "Corruption Investigation Division", for official misconduct. According to a column that appeared in the April 26, 1994 issue of *New York Newsday*, Mr. Hawkins is "one of [your] most trusted aides", who has been with you "since the late 1960's" (Exhibit "1").

If Mr. Hawkins is an example of those in whom you repose your trust, you, as well as the citizenry of Kings County, are in deep trouble. This opinion is based upon my personal experience with Mr. Hawkins this past Friday, March 10th, as well as his deliberate neglect and inaction on a criminal complaint filed with the Corruption Investigation Division on April 27, 1994 against high-ranking judges in your bailiwick. A copy of my original complaint letter is annexed (Exhibit "2"), as is my subsequent correspondence, dated July 11, 1994 (Exhibit "3"), July 22, 1994 (Exhibit "4"), and August 12, 1994 (Exhibit "5"). Such correspondence transmitted full and complete documentation to prove my serious allegations of criminal conduct, including the disciplinary files under A.D. #90-00315, referred to in the April 27, 1994 complaint as "prima facie, if not conclusive, evidence' of 'an ongoing criminal conspiracy' by the justices involved".

After months of stonewalling, with repeated representations by A.D.A. Laghezza that my files were being reviewed "page by page", I sent a letter to A.D.A. Laghezza dated November 29, 1994 (Exhibit "6"), requesting information as to where matters stood.

I received no response to that letter. My daughter, likewise, received no response to her subsequent telephone messages for A.D.A. Laghezza. On Monday of last week, more than three months having by then elapsed since my November 29, 1994 letter, my daughter again left a telephone message for A.D.A. Laghezza. The following day, she received a call from Mr. Hawkins' secretary that Mr. Hawkins would be available on Friday to meet with us.

I had no idea that what Mr. Hawkins had in mind in having us travel down from White Plains, New York to his God-forsaken base of operations in Redhook, Brooklyn was to peremptorily announce his decision that "no crimes have been committed in Brooklyn" and to insult and degrade me and my daughter when we sought to ascertain the basis on which he had arrived at such conclusion.

Mr. Hawkins became enraged and abusive toward my daughter when, following her examination of the disciplinary files under A.D. #90-00315 which were being returned to us, she showed him that they were completely uncreased, in the same pristine condition as she had delivered them to the Corruption Investigation Division eight months earlier, and plainly never reviewed by Mr. Hawkins or anyone else. Mr. Hawkins snidely stated that he "bet" she would like "to fingerprint them".

It may be noted that Mr. Hawkins did not see fit to have present either A.D.A. Laghezza, who was responsible for the intake of this matter, nor A.D.A. Hafer, who Mr. Laghezza had represented as having been assigned the case. Instead, Mr. Hawkins had an A.D.A. present who had no personal contact with the files.

To give an example of Mr. Hawkins' inability to discuss the pivotal issues establishing the corrupt criminal conduct which his office was supposed to be investigating, Mr. Hawkins initially conceded that there was no disciplinary proceeding underlying my June 14, 1991 "interim" suspension. However, when our discussion of the chronology made clear that such fact rendered the October 18, 1990 order directing my medical examination unlawful, Mr. Hawkins stated he did "not care". Mr. Hawkins also stated he did "not care" about the legal requirements for suspending an attorney or for commencing a disciplinary proceeding against an attorney. Instead, he took the position that a court was free to make any order, without concerning himself with whether such order was knowingly and deliberately made without factual or legal basis--which is precisely what the disciplinary files under A.D. #90-00315 show.

Even as to my Article 78 proceeding against the Appellate Division, Second Department, Mr. Hawkins did not wish to discuss the law. When pressed, he purported that he did "not know" whether judges sued in an Article 78 proceeding could decide the propriety and legality of their *own* conduct without violating, *inter alia*, Judiciary Law §14.

While puffing on a cigar and looking out the window, Mr. Hawkins expressed total disinterest and contempt when I tried to discuss the political background to the judicial retaliation against me, which I contended constituted the motive for the criminal acts of the Appellate Division, Second Department, its at-will appointees, and its counsel, the Attorney General.

Mr. Hawkins also stated he did not care about the Election Law case of *Castracan v. Colavita*, which, until my suspension, I had handled as *pro bono* counsel--or the related case of *Sady v. Murphy*, which the Appellate Division, Second Department deliberately dumped, on appeal. He further unashamedly told us that he did "not care" about the violations of the Election Law at the 1989 judicial nominating conventions, which I informed him I had personally witnessed, nor the

March 14, 1995

written Three-Year cross-endorsement Deal, trading seven (7) judgeships between the major political parties.

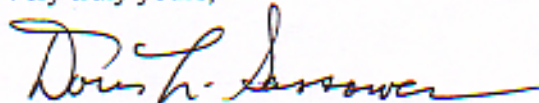
In view of the unassailable documentary proof provided Mr. Hawkins corroborating my serious allegations, I consider his conduct to be not just indefensible, but completely dishonest. If you are serious about the value of a Corruption Investigation Division in protecting the public from corruption by its public servants, it is incumbent on you to undertake an investigation of the individual whom you have entrusted with that responsibility.

I, therefore, submit this letter as a formal complaint against Mr. Hawkins. His demonstrated malfeasance and non-feasance in a matter of such gravity, where the public interest is directly threatened, warrant his removal from office.

On your request, I will re-transmit the dispositive files which Mr. Hawkins returned to us so that you can verify not only the crimes committed by the Appellate Division, Second Department, et al., but Mr. Hawkins' official misconduct, *inter alia*, under Penal Law §195.00.

For present purposes, I enclose a copy of my petition for certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court, filed by me on February 27, 1995¹. Mr. Hawkins adamantly stated he was "not interested" in such document and flatly refused to accept the copy I proffered so that he could better understand the elementary rules of law and constitutional and legal principles that have been knowingly and deliberately violated, over and again--and to the present date--by the Appellate Division, Second Department.

Very truly yours,



DORIS L. SASSOWER, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

DLS/er
Enclosures

cc: Dennis Duggan, *New York Newsday*

¹ The three-year judge-trading Deal appears at A-29-30 of the cert. petition.

P 624 546 595
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