CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY CERTIFIED MAIL: 7099-3400-0001-2733-3449

November 17, 2000

Steven M. Zeidman, Executive Director
The Fund for Modern Courts
351 West 54th Street
New York, New York 10019

RE: Soliciting the Fund's Comment on CJA's October 16, 2000 and November 13, 2000 reports on the corruption of the "Merit Selection" Process to the New York Court of Appeals

Dear Mr. Zeidman:

Following up our phone conversation this morning, it is most urgent that you review CJA's October 16, 2000 report on the Commission on Judicial Nomination's subversion of "merit selection" principles so that the Fund can contribute its expertise to the Senate Judiciary Committee at the upcoming hearing on Justice Graffeo's confirmation. Otherwise, it might reasonably be seen that the Fund is "ducking" the serious issues the report presents.

As discussed, the following are enclosed:

(1) CJA's November 13, 2000 letter to Justice Graffeo and Chairman Lack, calling upon them to safeguard the public's right to "hear" and "be heard" at the Senate confirmation hearing and to themselves address CJA's October 16, 2000 report;

(2) CJA's November 13, 2000 report on "The Complicitous Role of the Bar Associations in the Corruption of 'Merit Selection' Appointment to the New York Court of Appeals", exposing their rigged and fraudulent ratings of the recommendees

(3) CJA's November 14, 2000 letter to the First Department Disciplinary Committee, initiating a formal complaint of professional misconduct against the New York State Bar Association, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the Women's Bar of the State of New York, and the Trial Lawyers Association of New York, as well as the lawyers who participated in their rigged and fraudulent ratings of the recommendees.

As the Fund is an *alter ego* of the bar establishment, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York in particular, the Fund will have an even harder time in confronting CJA's November 13, 2000 report than it has in confronting CJA's October 16, 2000 report. However, if the Fund is going to have any continued credibility on the issue of "merit selection", it is imperative that it do so – after making proper disclosure of its substantial conflicts of interest.

Please call me as soon as you have reviewed these two reports so that CJA can have the benefit of your substantive comments. I look forward to answering your questions and supplying you with those parts of the underlying substantiating documentation not in your possession.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

Elena Ruth Sassower

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

Enclosures

P.S. Also transmitted is a hard copy of CJA's November 3rd fax, with enclosures

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