## CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY FAX: 202-224-9102 [18 pages]

BY CERTIFIED MAIL/RRR: 7002-2030-0007-8573-4161

DATE:

January 29, 2004

TO:

Margarita Tapia, Press Secretary

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch

FROM:

Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

RE:

REPEATEDLY REQUESTED SUPERVISORY OVERSIGHT over Senate Judiciary Committee Staff whose Disregard of CJA's Document Requests has Included Withholding from CJA the Public Portions of Questionnaires of Judicial Nominees Being

Confirmed by the Committee and Senate

This is to protest your failure to respond to CJA's December 29, 2003 memo, reiterating the substance of our telephone conversation on that date – as well as your failure to respond to my follow-up phone message for you on January 15, 2004, which I left with Michelle, a staff assistant.

Enclosed is a further copy of the December 29, 2003 memo, along with its underlying, unresponded-to correspondence going back to June 9, 2003, requesting the public portions of questionnaires completed by judicial nominees to district and circuit judgeships in the Second Circuit, nine in total.

In the event you continue to fail to respond, it will be assumed that you do so at the direction of Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch and that he has reviewed the instant memo and the past unresponded-to correspondence it transmits. This includes, most particularly, our August 29, 2003 memo for supervisory oversight, addressed to him and to Ranking Member Patrick Leahy -- to which we received no response.

Margarita Tapia, Press Secretary January 29, 2004 Page Two

In any event, CJA hereby requests that you furnish the instant memo and its enclosures to Chairman Hatch so there is no doubt as to his direct responsibility in thwarting the constructive participation of our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization in the confirmations of nominees to "lifetime" federal judgeships.

Since Ranking Member Leahy is also responsible for the way the Senate Judiciary Committee is run, a copy of this memo is being sent to him so that he can independently ensure that the requested documents are furnished without further delay.

Finally, we take this opportunity to note that the publicly-available financial statements of Richard C. Wesley and P. Kevin Castel were missing from the public portions of their completed questionnaires, which Republican Nominations Clerk Swen Prior had promptly furnished to us in response to our March 14, 2003 request. We ask that these be included when the Committee finally provides us with the public portions of the completed questionnaires (with financial statements) for the other nine judicial nominees.

Please advise ASAP – by either phone (914-421-1200), fax (914-428-4994), or e-mail (judgewatchers@aol.com) -- when these requested documents will be forthcoming.

Thank you.

Stera Ross

Enclosure

cc: Ranking Member Patrick Leahy

By Fax: 202-224-9516 [18 pages]

By Certified Mail/RRR: 7002-2030-0007-8573-4130

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