

rec'd 3/6/06

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES AND TENURE**

515 FIFTH STREET, N.W. BUILDING A, ROOM 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
(202) 727-1363

March 1, 2006

Ms. Elena Sassower
Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.
P.O. Box 8220
White Plains, NY 10602

Dear Ms. Sassower:

This will acknowledge receipt of your complaint against Judges of the D.C. Courts dated February 22, 2006. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some information about the Commission.

The Commission exercises authority granted it by Congress. Its responsibility is to investigate allegations of judicial misconduct and where those allegations are proved, to impose discipline.

When it receives a complaint, the Commission first determines whether the facts, if proved, would constitute misconduct serious enough to justify exercise of the Commission's power. If the complaint charges primarily that a judge decided a case wrongly on the facts or the law, the Commission does not have jurisdiction. In that case, the proper reviewing body is the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. If the complaint appears to charge misconduct within the Commission's jurisdiction, the Commission may order an investigation, including witness interviews, review of transcripts, response from the judge, and obtaining other documents. After reviewing the results of the investigation, if the Commission determines that the conduct justifies a formal proceeding against the judge, such a proceeding will be commenced. Even if the Commission determines that a formal hearing is not warranted, it may confer with the judge concerning the conduct which forms the basis of the complaint, and if appropriate counsel the judge regarding his or her conduct.

Ms. Elena Sassower

March 1, 2006

Page Two

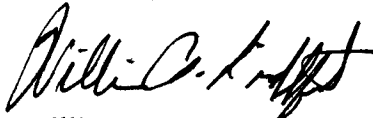
The statute creating the Commission provides that its proceedings are confidential. D.C. Code §11-1528 (a) provides, in part:

“(a) The filing of papers with and the giving of testimony before the Commission shall be privileged. Unless otherwise authorized by the judge whose conduct or health is the subject of the proceedings... the hearings before the Commission, the record thereof, and all papers filed in connection with such hearings shall be confidential...”

This confidentiality protects both a complainant and a judge where conduct does not result in public action. Therefore, it is entirely possible that you will not be made aware of the Commission's actions with respect to your complaint. You may be assured, however, that the Commission considers every complaint filed on an individual basis.

On behalf of the Commission, I thank you for your interest in the improvement of the administration of our judicial system.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William P. Lightfoot", written in a cursive style.

William P. Lightfoot
Chairperson

WPL/ga