

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY EXPRESS MAIL: EM025605921US

July 11, 2001

Senate Judiciary Committee Members
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: CJA's request for your public support for hearings to be held on judicial discipline and removal by the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts – *including threshold hearings on the 1993 Report of the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal*

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

The Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) is a national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, focusing on issues of judicial selection and discipline on federal, state, and local levels. A copy of our informational brochure is enclosed.

CJA looks forward to the opportunity to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, chaired by Senator Charles Schumer. As you know, Senator Schumer has announced his intention to hold "at least" three further hearings examining "important issues related to the judicial nominating process" – additional to the June 26, 2001 hearing already held on "*Should Ideology Matter?: Judicial Nominations 2001*". Enclosed is a copy of CJA's July 3, 2001 letter to Senator Schumer, submitted for the record of that hearing – to which you are indicated recipients.

The only exhibits to that letter included for your review are Exhibit "N-1", CJA's published article, "*Without Merit: The Empty Promise of Judicial Discipline*" (*The Long Term View*, (Massachusetts School of Law), Vol. 4, No. 1, summer 1997), and Exhibit "O-1", CJA's Statement for inclusion in the record of the House Judiciary Committee's June 11, 1998 "Oversight Hearing of the Administration and Operation of the federal judiciary". These exhibits¹ suffice to summarize why the Subcommittee must also hold hearings on federal

¹ Should you wish to see the balance of the exhibits – and, especially, Exhibits "N-2" and "N-3", which are

judicial discipline and removal – beginning with threshold hearings on the 1993 Report of the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal.

As reflected by CJA's July 11, 2001 letter to Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle and Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott – to which you are indicated recipients – we have requested their public endorsement for hearings on judicial discipline and removal. Likewise, CJA requests your own public support.

Should you have any doubt as to the imperative for such hearings, CJA invites you – as we have Senate Leaders Daschle and Lott – to meet with us or independently examine the massive *incontrovertible* proof, long in the possession of the House Judiciary Committee, establishing that

“the mechanisms for disciplining and removing incompetent, dishonest, and abusive federal judges from the bench are *verifiably* sham and dysfunctional.”
(at p. 16, emphasis in the original).

On that subject, enclosed is a copy of CJA's July 9, 2001 letter to the House Judiciary Committee's Minority Counsel, referred to at the close of our letter to the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders.

If, in face of this *incontrovertible* proof, you are unwilling to publicly support hearings on judicial discipline and removal, please state your reasons.

As the absence of effective safeguards against misconduct by federal judges has had on-going and irreparable consequences for countless Americans and the public-at-large, your prompt attention is anticipated.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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

Enclosures

cc: Senator Charles Schumer, Chairman/Senate Judiciary Courts Subcommittee
Recipients of CJA's July 3, 2001 letter to Senator Schumer

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