

# CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

**BY PRIORITY MAIL**

**CERTIFIED/RRR: 7099-3400-0001-2733-3500**

November 13, 2000

President Deborah Kaplan  
Women's Bar Association of the State of New York  
c/o Chambers of Judge Juanita Bing Newton  
25 Beaver Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10004-2310

RE: CJA's November 13, 2000 report, "The Complicitous Role of the Bar Associations in the Corruption of 'Merit Selection' Appointment to the New York Court of Appeals"

Dear President Kaplan:

Enclosed is CJA's above-entitled November 13, 2000 report, which is being filed with the First Department Disciplinary Committee as a formal complaint of professional misconduct against the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and its culpable officers and members. Please bring it to the *immediate* attention of all officers and Judiciary Committee members who participated in the rigged and fraudulent bar ratings of the candidates recommended by the Commission on Judicial Nomination's October 4, 2000 report.

As set forth at page 3 of CJA's November 13, 2000 report, the Women's Bar Association can mitigate the disciplinary consequences of the misconduct of its culpable officers and members. However, for this to be most meaningful, it must be done as soon as possible, preferably in advance of the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Justice Graffeo's confirmation or, at latest, at the confirmation hearing. At such time, the Women's Bar Association must publicly address the serious issues presented by CJA's October 16, 2000 report as to the Commission on Judicial Nomination's subversion of "merit selection" principles. First of these issues is whether the Commission's October 4, 2000 report conforms with the requirement of Judiciary Law §63.3 that it contain "*findings* relating to the character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications and fitness for office of *each candidate* who is recommended to the

governor<sup>1</sup> and, if not, whether the Senate may lawfully proceed with confirmation, over public objection as presented by CJA's October 16, 2000 report.

As the Women's Bar Association had CJA's October 16, 2000 report "shredded on site", a superseding copy<sup>2</sup> is enclosed, albeit without the appended exhibits and free-standing File Folders "A" and "B". Copies of these will be furnished upon requests.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

*Elena Ruth Sassower*

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

Enclosures

cc: First Department Disciplinary Committee  
Institute on Professionalism in the Law  
Chief Judge Kaye's Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence  
in the Legal System

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*President Deborah Kaplan  
Women's Bar Assoc of  
the State of NY  
Chambers of Judge Neuman  
25 Beavers Street  
11<sup>th</sup> floor  
NY, NY 10004-2310*

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<sup>1</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>2</sup> See CJA's October 18<sup>th</sup> fax advising of superseding October 16, 2000 report.