CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY PRIORITY MAIL
CERTIFIED/RRR: 7099-3400-0001-2733-3470

November 14, 2000

First Department Disciplinary Committee
61 Broadway, 2nd Floor
New York, New York 10006

ATT: Thomas J. Cahill, Chief Counsel

RE: Verified Complaint of Professional Misconduct against the Association of the Bar of the City of New York; the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York; the New York State Trial Lawyers Association; and the New York State Bar Association and the Culpable Lawyers Acting on Their Behalf

Dear Mr. Cahill:

Enclosed is 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 Appeal". It details how lawyers acting on behalf of the above four bar associations wilfully violated New York's Code of Professional Responsibility and its Disciplinary Rules 8-102(a) and 1-102(a)[1] by issuing rigged and fraudulent ratings for New York Court of Appeals candidates.

By reason thereof, the report expressly identifies (at pp. 2, 27) that it is being filed with the First Department Disciplinary Committee as a formal complaint of professional misconduct against these bar associations and the culpable lawyers acting in their name. For such purpose, the report annexes a verification (at p. 29) of the facts its particularizes.

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[1] These are, respectively, 22 NYCRR §1200.43(a) and 1200.3(a) of the Joint Disciplinary Rules promulgated by the Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court. (*See* p. 5 of CJA's November 13, 2000 report).

As reflected by footnote 3 of the report, all four bar associations interviewed the Court of Appeals candidates in Manhattan and, with the exception of the New York State Bar Association, all are headquartered in Manhattan, with attorneys who practice in Manhattan among their officers. As for the New York State Bar Association, the Chairman of its Committee on Judicial Selection, with foremost responsibility for its rigged and fraudulent ratings, has his law office in Manhattan.

Each of the bar associations have been sent a copy of CJA's November 13, 2000 report under coverletters to their presidents alerting them that the report is being filed as a formal complaint of professional misconduct against the associations and their culpable lawyers. Enclosed are copies of those coverletters, with copies of the mailing receipts.

Also enclosed is a copy of CJA's October 16, 2000 report, with appended exhibits and free-standing File Folders "A" and "B", reflecting what CJA had provided to all four bar associations prior to their ratings.

Obviously, members of the First Department Disciplinary Committee – and perhaps you, yourself – have personal and professional relationships with the powerful and prominent bar association lawyers who are the subject of this complaint, as well as with the even more powerful public officers implicated in the corruption chronicled by CJA's October 16, 2000 report[2] – which the bar lawyers covered up. In light thereof, please advise what steps will be taken to ensure the fair and impartial evaluation of this complaint. Please also supply a list of the Committee's members.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

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

Enclosures

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

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[2] *See, in particular*, CJA's March 26, 1999 ethics complaint and CJA's September 15, 1999 supplemental ethics complaint, which are Exhibits "A-2" and "B" to CJA's October 16, 2000 report.

7099 3400 0001 2733 3470

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