

# CITIZENS FOR INDEPENDENT COURTS

A PROJECT OF THE CENTURY FOUNDATION/TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND

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Virginia E. Sloan  
*Executive Director*

Hon. Mickey Edwards  
Hon. Lloyd N. Cutler  
*Co-Chairs*

August 25, 1998

Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.  
P.O. Box 69  
Gedney Station  
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Dear Elena:

As I indicated to you on the telephone this morning, I do not believe that coordination between our two organizations would be either fruitful or appropriate. Given both the tax laws and the objectives of Citizens for Independent Courts, we cannot take positions on many of the matters about which you have sought our intervention. In addition, it is clear that the goals of our organizations are quite different. We seek consensus on a variety of difficult issues relating to judicial independence. While the Center for Judicial Accountability is also concerned with judicial independence, you have indicated through your conversations with me and through the material you sent me that you consider some of the groups working with Citizens for Independent Courts to be "dishonest" and to have engaged in "grossly unprofessional and unethical conduct." Since we do not agree with this characterization, and with other of the conclusions you describe in your material, it appears that our missions are simply incompatible and that the Center for Judicial Accountability's participation in our work is not appropriate.

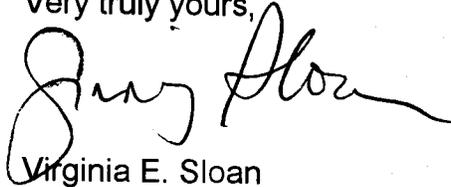
As I also informed you, I cannot contact Richard Ottinger, the Dean of Pace Law School who is also a member of Citizens for Independent Courts, to request that he allow the Center to use its law library. In my view, this is a matter between you and Dean Ottinger and it would not be appropriate for Citizens for Independent Courts to become involved.

Elena Ruth Sassower

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I am sorry that coordination between Citizens for Independent Courts and the Center for Judicial Accountability is not possible. At your request, I am returning to you the material you sent me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virginia E. Sloan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "S".

Virginia E. Sloan  
Executive Director

cc: Dr. Morton H. Halperin, Senior Vice President, The Century Foundation  
John Kowal, Open Society Institute