

CENTER for
JUDICIAL
ACCOUNTABILITY



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By Fax and by Mail:
212-732-4241

April 25, 1994

Mr. Jack Newfield
New York Post
210 South Street
New York, New York 10002

RE: Our "common goal": Judicial Accountability

Dear Mr. Newfield:

I am at a loss to understand your rude treatment of me--an absolute stranger--whose sole offense was to bring to your attention stories about judicial accountability and corruption which, by any objective standard, are extraordinary and significant and which, by the standard set by your past writings, should have hit "close to the heart".

Prior to our 30-second conversation this morning, our only conversation was on April 13th, when we spoke for approximately three-minutes. At that time, I introduced myself--including as a fan of your columns--and proposed possible story ideas for Law Day, May 1st.

You requested that I call back later in the afternoon. However, when I telephoned thereafter, I was told you had already left for the day.

Since the prospect of speaking to someone whose work I so admired frightened me, I decided to put forth my proposals in writing. This I did in a letter, dated April 13th, which took me several hours and great effort to write.

Thereafter, hearing nothing from you in response, I worked up my courage and telephoned the Post on April 19th and April 20th. Each time I left messages--which you did not return.

This morning, when I was finally able to reach you by phone, you barked at me that you were "not interested" and "busy" and when, in surprise, I began to say that I had thought that someone who writes the kind of stories you do about the judiciary and about corruption, would be particularly interested in our activities, you cut me off, responding, "Did you hear what I said, I'm busy?". With that you hung up the phone.

Mr. Newfield

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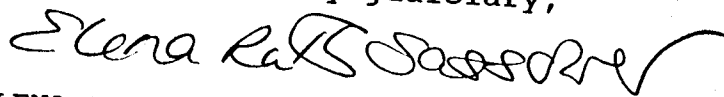
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Frankly, I am still reeling from the experience. In view of what I described in my April 13th letter--and the fact that the Center's activities are pro bono and completely unfunded, I find your hostile disinterest not only difficult to fathom, but painful.

For your convenience, another copy of my letter--without enclosures--is transmitted herewith.

Perhaps you will reconsider. If not, I would greatly appreciate your passing on that letter to other writers--at the Post or otherwise--who would be willing to tackle stories about judicial corruption and criminal behavior--which are the subject of unassailable documentary proof.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability