

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

P. O. Box 69, Gedney Station
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Tel. (914) 421-1200
Fax (914) 684-6554

E-Mail: judgewatch@aol.com
Web site: <http://www.judgewatch.org>

BY FAX: 518-449-4255

9 pages

For Ruth Hochberger:
212-696-4287

TO: New York Law Journal
Gary Spencer

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

RE: Governor Pataki's

DATE: June 5, 1997

As you can see from our enclosed letter to Governor Pataki, the story of his continued use of a temporary judicial screening committee -- and the public's right to information -- is far from over.

Indeed, it would appear that your March 6, 1997 front-page Law Journal article, referred to in the second paragraph of our letter, was quite inaccurate in assuming -- and leading the public to believe -- that the permanent screening committees became "operational" with the Governor's belated designation of the members of the four Judicial Department Screening Committees. Or were you yourself misled?

Only through media pressure on the Governor will the public's right to information about his secretive judicial appointments process be vindicated. As the New York Law Journal's Albany reporter, we're counting on you to follow through.

In the event you believe that Daniel Wise, who wrote the May 15th front-page article about Justice Colabella's elevation to the Appellate Division, ^{1st} Second Department, should be handling this story, we are faxing a copy to him c/o the Law Journal. Of course, Mr. Wise is unfamiliar with the documentary materials about the judicial appointments process that we previously provided you. This includes our March 7, 1997 to City Bar President Michael Cardozo about the City Bar's white-washing and dishonest February report about the Governor's continued use of his Temporary Committee, which was confined to the "appearance of impropriety", rather than the evidentiary proof of same.

Justice Colabella's elevation only adds to the evidentiary proof that, in fact, the Governor was "waiting until 'political favors' had been paid with judicial appointments."

*
cc: Ruth Hochberger, Editor-in Chief
New York Law Journal

Elena Ruth Sassower