

# CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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BY FEDERAL EXPRESS 1060-6503-9

November 16, 2000

Jordan Rau, Newsday  
State Capitol, Third Floor  
Legislative Correspondents' Association  
Albany, New York 12224

RE: Upholding the Public's Right to "Hear" and "Be Heard" at the Upcoming Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on Justice Graffeo's Confirmation to the New York Court of Appeals


Dear Mr. Rau:

Events in Florida underscore the significance of a state's highest court – and the value of a series of stories examining "merit selection" appointment/confirmation to New York's Court of Appeals, for which, 23 years ago, New Yorkers gave up their right to elect their highest state court judges.

As briefly discussed, enclosed are the following:

- (1) CJA's November 13<sup>th</sup> letter to Justice Graffeo and Chairman Lack, calling upon them to safeguard the public's right to "hear" and "be heard" at the upcoming Senate confirmation hearing and to themselves address the serious issues presented by CJA's October 16, 2000 report on the Commission on Judicial Nomination's subversion of the "merit selection" principles – beginning with its violative October 4, 2000 report of recommendees.
- (2) CJA's November 13, 2000 report on "The Complicitous Role of the Bar Associations in the Corruption of 'Merit Selection' Appointment to the New York Court of Appeals", exposing their rigged and fraudulent ratings of the recommendees
- (3) CJA's November 14<sup>th</sup> letter to the First Department Disciplinary Committee initiating a formal complaint of professional misconduct against the four bar associations and the lawyers who participated in their rigged and fraudulent ratings of the recommendees.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

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