

11/21/95

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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5 pages

Jeffrey N. Barr, Assistant General Counsel
Administrative Office of the United States Courts
One Columbus Circle
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Barr:

Thank you for your return call yesterday and your promised assistance. Enclosed is a copy of my letter to the Second Circuit, requesting the information we discussed at the outset of our conversation.

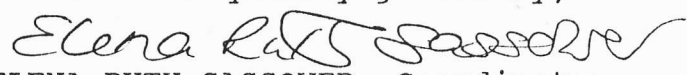
In reviewing the March 15, 1994 Report of the Judicial Conference, I note that the Conference deferred action on the Review Committee's recommendation (#18) relating to "bias based on race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnic or national origin, including sexual harassment" "pending consideration by the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management". A copy of the pertinent page is enclosed for your convenience.

Has the Judicial Conference since taken action? Was any report or recommendation made by the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management--and, if so, may we have a copy?

I am assuming that next week's hearing sponsored by the Second Circuit's Task Force on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness is a response to the aforementioned bias issue. A copy of Friday's Law Journal announcement of the hearing in the Southern District is enclosed. I understand that the Second Circuit has already held hearings in the Northern and Western Districts of New York, with the Eastern District yet to be scheduled.

By the way, do you know whether and what type of public notices were placed in legal and non-legal periodicals announcing the hearings held by the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal on May 1, 1992, May 15, 1992, and January 29, 1993--all in Washington, D.C.?

Thank you again and a very happy Thanksgiving.

Yours for a quality judiciary,

ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

Enclosures

March 16, 1994

- d) that Illustrative Rule 4(b), which provides that a chief judge may make a limited inquiry into the allegations of a complaint, be adopted and adhered to by all circuits and courts covered by the Act; and
- e) that the Administrative Office routinely provide the House Committee on the Judiciary with all final orders and accompanying memoranda required by the Act to be publicly available.

The Conference noted that all circuits and courts covered by the Act already have in place, or are in the process of adopting, the practices enumerated in subsections a through d above. The Conference further noted that it is the present practice of the Administrative Office to provide the House Committee on the Judiciary with all final orders and accompanying memoranda required by the Act to be publicly available. Accordingly, national uniformity already has been established, or the recommendations of the National Commission otherwise complied with, as to each of these matters. Further action by the Conference is therefore unnecessary.

The Judicial Conference also charged the Review Committee with preparing the modified Illustrative Rules and/or commentary referred to in items 1(b), 5, 9, 10, and 11 above.

In addition, the Review Committee recommended that a committee of the Conference (1) monitor the efforts of the respective circuits and courts in studying judicial misconduct involving bias based on race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnic or national origin, including sexual harassment, and the extent to which the Act and other existing mechanisms and programs, including judicial education, are adequate to deal with it; and (2) consider and recommend such changes in policies, procedures, and programs as are warranted. Conference review of this recommendation was deferred pending consideration by the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, which is monitoring gender bias studies underway in the courts.

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The Second Circuit Task Force on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts will sponsor a hearing Nov. 28 from noon to 8 p.m. in the ninth floor ceremonial courtroom at the U.S. Court House, 500 Pearl Street. Information on registration and how to provide written submissions to the task force appears on page 2.

Task Force to Review Gender, Race Issues

The Second Circuit Task Force on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts has scheduled a public hearing for Nov. 28 from noon to 8 p.m. in the ninth floor ceremonial courtroom at the U.S. Court House, 500 Pearl Street.

Attorneys, litigants, court employees, witnesses, jurors and other interested parties have been invited to present comments on how gender, race or ethnic background affect their experiences in the area's federal courts.

Information on advance registration, making anonymous comments or for additional details about the hearing may be obtained at 969-4002. Participants may also register at the hearing, depending on availability.

Written submissions should be brought to the hearing or mailed to Judge John M. Walker Jr. at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, 500 Pearl Street, Room 2530, New York, N.Y. 10007. They also may be submitted to Professor Diane Zimmerman, New York University Law School, 40 Washington Square South, New York, N.Y. 10012.

FAX NUMBER

Announcements of events, personnel changes and verdicts or settlements may be sent to the *Law Journal* via fax, at (212) 696-4287.