



NEW YORK STATE
Unified Court System

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

LAWRENCE K. MARKS
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

JOHN W. McCONNELL
COUNSEL

October 15, 2015

Elena Ruth Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.
P.O. Box 8101
White Plains, New York 10602

Via email to: elena@judgewatch.org

Dear Ms. Sassower:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL") request dated July 14, 2015.

We have no existing records responsive to your requests concerning the Committee on the Profession and the Courts and its 1995 Report.

Information regarding the establishment of the Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law ("JIPL") after the Report, the Task Forces proposed, and resulting reforms is available at the following link for the Institute:
<http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/jipl/whatisit.shtml>

The various available journals, programs, convocations, and transcripts for the Committee, some of which date back to 2000, are available at the following links:
<http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/jipl/convocations.shtml>
<http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/jipl/library.shtml>

Very truly yours,

Shawn Kerby
Assistant Deputy Counsel

Shawn Kerby

To: Center for Judicial Accountability
Subject: RE: Records Request: Committee on the Profession & the Courts

Dear Ms. Sassower:

We will process your FOIL request and expect to respond within 20 business days.

Very truly yours,
Shawn Kerby
Assistant Deputy Counsel

From: Center for Judicial Accountability [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 2:03 AM
To: Shawn Kerby
Subject: Records Request: Committee on the Profession & the Courts

Dear Ms. Kerby,

Attached is the Center for Judicial Accountability's above-entitled records request of today's date.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
(914) 421-1200

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.*

Post Office Box 8101
White Plains, New York 10602

Tel. (914) 421-1200

E-Mail: cja@judgewatch.org
Website: www.judgewatch.org

BY E-MAIL: skerby@nycourts.gov

July 14, 2015

Shawn Kerby, Records Access Officer & Assistant Deputy Counsel
Office of Court Administration
25 Beaver Street, 11th Floor
New York, New York 10004

RE: Records Request: Committee on the Profession and the Courts

Dear Ms. Kerby:

In or about December 1993, then Chief Judge Judith Kaye appointed a "Committee on the Profession and the Courts", chaired by Louis A. Craco, Esq., which in November 1995 rendered a Final Report to the Chief Judge.

Pages 6-7 of the Report contain a section entitled "Public Hearings", whose first paragraph is as follows:

"The Committee held public hearings, limited to users of legal services, in the Fall of 1994. Separate, advertised hearings were conducted in Buffalo, Manhattan, Albany, Central Islip and Syracuse. The advertisements inviting interested individuals or groups to speak at the hearings also publicized a '1-800' telephone line that the Committee kept open to receive public commentary from those who could not or preferred not to appear at the hearings. The Committee also invited written materials from the public and received a substantial response, all of which was circulated to all the members. A list of those testifying at the hearings is contained in Appendix C."

Pursuant to §124 of the Chief Administrator's Rules and Public Officers Law, Article VI [Freedom of Information Law (F.O.I.L.)], this is to request:

(1) access to the transcripts and/or videos of the Committee's public hearings;

* Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) is a national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, working to ensure that the processes of judicial selection and discipline are effective and meaningful.

- (2) access to the "commentary" the public furnished the Committee *via* the 1-800 telephone line, particularly with respect to attorney grievance/disciplinary procedures;
- (3) access to the "written materials" the public furnished the Committee, particularly with respect to attorney grievance/disciplinary procedures;
- (4) access to the "public comment" to the Committee's November 1995 Final Report, received in the 90-day period for "public comment", announced by then Chief Judge Kaye and the Office of Court Administration, particularly with respect to attorney grievance/disciplinary procedures.

Pursuant to §124.6 of the Chief Administrator's Rules and Public Officers Law §89.3, your response is required "within five business days" of your receipt of this request. I would appreciate if you e-mailed it to me at elena@judgewidth.org.

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



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