



FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

DORIS L. SASSOWER
283 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, New York
Telephone: (914) 997-1677

FAX: (914) 684-6554

8/13/91
DATE

1:40 p.m.
TIME

Four (4)
NUMBER OF PAGES
(including this one)

TO: Hon. Catherine Englad Chairman

FAX NUMBER: 516
~~516~~ 588-0329

FROM: Doris L Sassower

If you do not receive the indicated number of pages, or if there is a question as to the transmittal, please call (914) 997-1677.

MESSAGE:

- As requested
- As promised
- For your information
- For your review and comment
- Please review and call me

As discussed by telephone, kindly fax the enclosure immediately to the Grievance Committee of the Tenth Judicial District, attention Ms. Moran & notify me accordingly.

DORIS L. SASSOWER

283 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE • WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. 10606 • 914/997-1677 • FAX: 914/684-6554

BY FAX and MAIL

Privileged and Confidential

August 13, 1991

Hon. Catherine T. England
Chairwoman, Grievance Committee
Tenth Judicial District
2556 Middle Country Road
Centereach, New York 11720

Dear Judge England:

Since you are Chairwoman of the Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District, I wish to inform you of the shocking manner in which the staff of the Grievance Committee treated me this morning, which I certainly hope is not the way they treat other callers. On the other hand, if it is only I who am treated so inappropriately, I object to such discriminatory treatment.

At approximately 11:15 this morning, following a telephone conversation a half-hour earlier with Deputy Counsel, Grace Moran, I telephoned the Grievance Committee office to request the fax number. I was asked who I was, to which I responded with my name and the further information that I wished to fax a letter to Ms. Moran in connection with our conversation of a half-hour earlier and that since Ms. Moran told me she would be leaving for vacation tomorrow morning, I wanted to insure her receipt thereof before her departure.

The woman who answered said "hold on a minute". When she got back on the line, she stated that she was not authorized to give me the fax number. I asked to speak with Ms. Moran, and the woman told me that she had checked with Ms. Moran, as well as Mr. Guido, and had been told by them that she was not to give me the fax number. She thereupon hung up on me. I immediately called back and spoke to the same woman. I repeated my request to speak with Ms. Moran directly and the woman thereupon responded that Ms. Moran would not take my call. I then asked to speak to any other attorney in the office, and the woman gave an immediate reply that there was no other attorney in the office to speak with me. When I asked the woman for her name, she refused to identify herself and abruptly hung up on me while I was asking her to take a message.

I called back and this time got another woman, even ruder than the first. She similarly flatly refused to identify who she was, except that she was not an attorney. She reiterated that the fax number would not be provided, despite the circumstances I explained. I asked to speak to Mr. Finnerty and was told he was "in conference". When I asked her to leave Mr. Finnerty a message to call me when he was free, she said (and I quote her exact words): "no attorney will call you back, Mrs. Sassower". She thereupon also hung up on me.

I respectfully submit that my request to speak with Ms. Moran or another attorney in the Grievance Committee office as to any given matter was a reasonable one.

Moreover, in view of the content of Ms. Moran's statements to me this morning, there is a compelling need to memorialize same in writing. Ms. Moran refused my request that she do so herself. She has now deliberately obstructed my attempt to obtain a contemporaneous verification from her as to the statements made to me this morning by her. I am, therefore, enclosing a copy of my letter to Ms. Moran--which was ready for faxing at 11:15 a.m. this morning. Due only to the circumstances hereindescribed, that letter is being transmitted to you with the request that it be promptly faxed to Ms. Moran at the office of the Tenth Judicial Grievance Committee.

I would not burden you with this task but for the fact that your secretary, Karen, advised me that she could not furnish me with the Committee's fax number either.

For your information, I have had no difficulty whatever in obtaining the fax number of the Grievance Committee for the Ninth Judicial District, and have regularly faxed communications to them with no objection whatever. If there is a different rule or policy applicable to the Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District, I would request to know the basis and if it is in writing.

Indeed, I hereby make formal request to you as Chairwoman for a copy of any written rules pertinent to the policies, practices, and procedures of the Tenth Judicial District Grievance Committee, other than those expressed in the Judiciary Law or the Rules of the Appellate Division, Second Department.

Very truly yours,



DORIS L. SASSOWER

DLS/er

Enclosure

cc: Grace D. Moran, Deputy Counsel

DORIS L. SASSOWER



283 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE • WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. 10606 • 914/997-1877 • FAX: 914/684-6554

BY FAX and MAIL

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August 13, 1991

Grace D. Moran, Deputy Counsel
Grievance Committee
for the Tenth Judicial District
900 Ellison Avenue, Suite 304
Westbury, New York 11590

Dear Ms. Moran:

Confirming our telephone conversation this morning, you have advised me that other than the general references in Section 90 of the Judiciary Law and Section 691.4 of the Rules of the Appellate Division, Second Department, there are no written rules in effect relating specifically to the established procedures, policies and practices of the Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District.

You have further stated that there is no written document which identifies how often or when the Committee meets, and that although written minutes are maintained by the Committee, you would not supply a copy of such portion of any minutes relating to an accused attorney when such attorney makes a request for same.

Finally, you stated to me that whenever a specific complaint is received by your office, it is not presented to the Committee for determination as to whether it should be investigated, but that it is the standard policy and practice of your office pursuant to "a blanket authorization" of the Committee to conduct the preliminary investigation of all complaints rather than to present them to the Committee for its instructions. You also stated that such "blanket authorization" is not embodied in any written document.

Although I asked you to set forth the information that you communicated to me in our telephone conversation at approximately 10:45 a.m., you refused to do so.

If in any way the foregoing does not accurately reflect our conversation, I would ask that you so indicate by return fax.

Very truly yours,

DORIS L. SASSOWER

DLS/er