

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator

BY CERTIFIED MAIL/RRR: Z-294-568-945

December 2, 1999

Administrative Judge Stephen G. Crane
Supreme Court/New York County
60 Centre Street
Room 669
New York, New York 10007

RE: Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator of the Center for Judicial
Accountability, Inc., acting pro bono publico, v. Commission on
Judicial Conduct of the State of New York (NY Co. #99-108551)

Dear Administrative Judge Crane:

Enclosed is a copy of my letter of today's date to Acting Supreme Court Justice William Wetzel – the judge you designated for my above-entitled Article 78 proceeding.

I direct your attention, in particular, to pages 9-10 of the letter relating to my application for Justice Wetzel's recusal and, if that is denied, for disclosure and a 30-day extension of time for me to file a formal recusal motion. Three paragraphs of those pages refer to you. They are as follows:

“In the event of the Court's recusal, I request that its order of recusal refer the case back to Judge Crane for reassignment. In view of the appearance and actuality of Judge Crane's *own* disqualifying bias and self-interest, I hereby request that Judge Crane – to whom a copy of this letter is being sent -- schedule a conference so that proper arrangements may be made to ensure that this Article 78 proceeding is assigned to a fair and impartial tribunal.” (p. 10)

...
“Further, since there is also reasonable question as to the basis upon which the Court was hand-picked for this case by Administrative Judge Crane, I request information as to the Court's knowledge of the basis and whether the Court apprised the Administrative Judge

of any of the aforesaid facts bearing upon the appearance and actuality of its disqualification for bias and self-interest.

Simultaneously, I ask Administrative Judge Crane to disclose: the basis upon which he directed the case to the Court, following Justice Kapnick's recusal, and whether he knew of its aforesaid disqualifications. Additionally, I request that he disclose the basis for his previous direction in this case: taking it away from Justice Carol Huff, to whom it had been *randomly* assigned following Justice Tolub's disqualification, and directing it to Justice Zweibel.¹³ This includes the legal authority for such actions." (p. 11)

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER
Petitioner *Pro Se*

Enclosure

cc: Acting Supreme Court Justice William Wetzel
New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer
New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct
Proposed Intervenors in instant Article 78 Proceeding
against NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct
U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York

¹³ I was completely unaware of Judge Crane's earlier involvement in this case until November 4th. It was then, in preparing the procedural history of the four prior judicial recusals appearing at page 1 of my November 5th letter to Justice Kapnick, that I first learned that Justice Zweibel had *not* been randomly assigned upon Justice Tolub's recusal, as I had believed until then. Rather, for reasons unknown, Judge Crane selected him, taking the case from Justice Huff, the randomly-assigned judge.