

Subj:	Senator DeFrancisco's Chairmanship of the State Senate Judiciary Committee
Date:	1/24/03 12:46:14 PM Eastern Standard Time
From:	Judgewatchers
To:	plyman@syracuse.com
CC:	Erikkriss
File:	read-1-22-03testimony.doc (56320 bytes) DL Time (115200 bps): < 1 minute

*Refer*  
TO: Paul Lyman, Editorial Page Editor

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Coordinator  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
(914) 421-1200

RE: Editorial Follow-up to Erik Kriss' "DeFrancisco Quiets Critic" (1/23/03)

DATE: January 24, 2003

Thank you for speaking with me.

As discussed, Chairman DeFrancisco's violative conduct of the Senate Judiciary Committee's "hearing" on Judge Read's confirmation to the Court of Appeals – spotlighted by Erik Kriss' yesterday's article, "DeFrancisco Quiets Critic" – requires editorial comment. To enable you to ~~may~~ make your own assessment of this, attached is my written testimony, whose presentation Chairman DeFrancisco aborted at the third paragraph (less than 3 minutes), with threats I would be physically removed by marshalls who, in fact, approached me.

I will mail you the substantiating appendix materials to which my testimony refers – the first two of which are my January 14th and 17th letters to Chairman DeFrancisco.

Please be advised that following the "hearing" – at which, unreported by Erik Kriss, neither Chairman DeFrancisco nor Committee members asked Judge Read a single question – I went to Chairman DeFrancisco's office and spoke to his Chief of Staff, Carole Luther. In addition to delivering a FOIL request for the "hearing" transcript and requesting that copies of my testimony and appendix be distributed to each and every member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I requested a meeting with Chairman DeFrancisco as soon as possible. This, to discuss the testimony he had deemed inappropriate to the "hearing".

I invite the people of Syracuse, who have elected Senator DeFrancisco, to join me at such meeting – and have told Erik Kriss I would welcome his attendance. Based upon your review of my testimony, I respectfully request the Syracuse Post-Standard editorialize its endorsement that such meeting be held without delay.

Needless to say, I would be pleased to come to Syracuse and meet with the editorial board, answer its questions, and provide copies of any and all of the three cartons of documentation I brought to the "hearing" in substantiation of CJA's serious and substantial opposition to Judge Read's confirmation.

Again, thank you.

*Elena Ruth  
Sassower*

Also enclosed –

*Former NYS Comptroller Regan's 1989 report on  
the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct,  
"Not Accountable to the Public," which I discussed  
with you. (see footnote 1 at A-15-16 of the  
appendix to my testimony)*