Ph.D., University of Cambridge, England M.B.A., University of Michigan Business School D.E.A., La Sorbonne, Paris

Synopsis of an Investigative Journalism Proposal

Where the Leads in Evidence Already Gathered in 12 Federal Cases¹ Would be Pursued in a Watergate-like *Follow the money*! Investigation to Answer the Question: Has a Federal Judgeship Become a Safe Haven for Coordinated Wrongdoing?

This is a poignant question, for it casts doubt on the integrity of the branch of government that should incarnate respect for the law and high ethical values. What makes it a realistic question worth investigating is the fact that since 1980 judges are charged with the duty to discipline themselves; what is more, complaints by anybody against their conduct must be filed with, and handled by, them. But according to the statistics of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts², judges systematically dismiss³ all complaints. As a result, in the last 27 years only three judges out of some 2,133 federal judges, have been impeached, the last one in 1989. Actually, in the whole 218 years since the U.S. Constitution of 1789, only 7 judges⁴ have been impeached and removed from the bench…on average one every 31 years!

If that were the time it would take for your CEO to be held accountable by his peers for his conduct toward you and the other people in your office, and in the meantime he could wield power over your property, liberty, and life with no more consequences than the suspension of a decision of his, do you think that he would be tempted to treat you however he wanted? If all complaints of yours ended up in the wastebasket together with those of your colleagues in the office, would you say that they would want to know of your efforts to force your CEO and his peers out of their safe haven in order to require them to treat you and your colleagues with respect or be liable to all of you? If so, you have a U.S. audience of 300 million colleagues waiting to know about your efforts to hold your judicial CEO and his peers accountable for their conduct.

Indeed, by law the chief justice of the Supreme Court and the associate justices review with the chief district and appellate judges twice a year reports⁵ showing that complaints against judges are dismissed systematically, which points to coordination to disregard a duty placed upon them by law. They have known also that in an area such as bankruptcy, judges wield enormous power over tens of billions of dollars annually. Power and money, the two most insidious and absolute corruptors in the hands of the same judges that have exempted themselves from any discipline. There is evidence that bankruptcy judges have engaged in a bankruptcy fraud scheme⁶ with the knowledge and support of district judges, and at least the toleration of circuit judges and the justices of the Supreme Court. That evidence and leads⁷ are hereby being offered for a joint *Follow the money!* investigative journalism project.

The discovery of evidence that a federal judgeship has become a safe haven for coordinated wrongdoing is bound to have a farther reaching impact than finding out that the Watergate Burglary was connected to President Richard Nixon. Unlike the president and his White House aides, federal judges hold office for life or renewable 14-year terms and can only be removed through the historically useless impeachment mechanism⁸. Hence, the investment of investigative resources in this project would not be for a momentary scoop, but rather for the development of a lode of news that would implicate the Congress dominated by "the culture of corruption"⁹ and the Executive, whose agenda is challenged in court. A *Follow the money!* investigation from acts or toleration of judicial bias and disregard for the law to concealed assets would outrage the public and lead to a cleansing institutional crisis. For the bloggers and investigative journalists that pursued the story most competently there are rewards to be gained: 15 minutes of fame, a Pulitzer Prize, or the title of the Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein of our generation. Let's get together to discuss the objectives and strategy¹⁰ to join resources and push forward this investigation.¹¹

¹ <u>Http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/docs/Table_of_cases.pdf</u>	IP:3
² Table S-22. Report of Complaints Filed and Action Taken Under Authority of 28 U.S.C. 351-364 During 12-Month Periods Between October 1, 1996 and September 30, 2005, in the 1997-2005 Annual Reports of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts; <u>http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/docs/Administrative_Office_statistics.pdf</u>	IP:5
³ The Official Statistics of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts Show the Systematic Dismissal of Judicial Conduct Complaints by Federal Judges, Including the Justices of the Supreme Court, by Dr. Richard Cordero, Esq.; <u>http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/docs/Statistics_of_systematic_dismissals.pdf</u>	. IP:23
⁴ Judges of the United States, Impeachments of Federal Judges, Federal Judicial Center, <u>http://www.fjc.gov/history/home/nsf</u> .	. IP:27
⁵ The Supreme Court Justices and the Chief Judges Have Semi-annually Received Official Information About the Self-immunizing Systematic Dismissal of Judicial Conduct Complaints, But Have Tolerated It With Disregard for the Consequent Abuse of Power and Corruption, by Dr. Richard Cordero, Esq.; <u>http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/docs/SCt_knows_of_dismissals.pdf</u>	. IP:31
⁶ Statement of Facts providing evidence showing that a federal judgeship has become a safe haven for wrongdoing due to lack of an effective mechanism of judicial conduct control and calling for the formation of a virtual firm of lawyers and investigative journalists to help prepare pro bono a class action based on a representative case charging that Chief Judge John M. Walker, Jr., and Circuit Judge Dennis Jacobs of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit have engaged in a series of acts of disregard for the law, the rules, and the facts, and of systematic dismissal of judicial misconduct complaints forming a pattern of non-coincidental, intentional, and coordinated wrongdoing that protects peers and other schemers involved in a bankruptcy fraud scheme, by Dr. Richard Cordero, Esq., http://judicial-discipline-reform.org/docs/Statement of Facts Table of Cases.pdf.	. IP:33
⁷ Contact information with detailed index to exhibits, organized by categories listed in the order in which the <i>Follow the money!</i> investigation may proceed, <u>http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/docs/contact_info_by_categories.pdf</u> .	. IP:43
⁸ Under 28 U.S.C. §152(a)(1) bankruptcy judges are "appointed by the court of appeals of the United States for the circuit in which such district is located", that is, the judicial district for which the judge is appointed "for a term of fourteen years". Under §152(a)(3), if a majority of the judges of such court cannot agree upon such appointment, the chief judge of the court appoints the bankruptcy judge. The latter's removal during his or her term is provided for under §152(e), which allows it to be executed "only by the judicial council of the circuit in which the judge's official duty station is located". Judicial councils are formed under §132(a)(1) "by the chief judge of the [respective] circuitand an equal number of circuit judges and district judges of the circuit". This mechanism of removal has proved to be as equally useless as that of impeachment of life-tenured federal judges, for not only do judges protect each other, but they are most reluctant to impugn their own judgment by admitting that the bankruptcy judge that they appointed was unfit to hold office and should be removed.	
⁹ House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi has publicly stated that Congress is dominated by "a culture of corruption" and that if her party wins control of the U.S. House of Representatives and she becomes its Speaker, she will work to "drain the swamp of corruption" in Congress.	
¹⁰ Federal judges have no grant of immunity from the Constitution: In a system of "Equal Justice Under Law" they must be liable to prosecution as defendants in a class action like anybody else, by Dr. Richard Cordero, Esq.; <u>http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/docs/no_judicial_immunity.pdf</u>	. IP:65
¹¹ cf. Programmatic Proposal to Unite Entities and Individuals to Use Their Resources Effectively in Our Common Mission to Ensure Integrity in Our Courts by Engaging in Specific Activities and Achieving Concrete Objectives, by Dr. Richard Cordero, Esq.; <u>http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/Programmatic1.htm</u>	. IP:67