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Letters: Outgoing (1990-1994): Correspondence 05

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September 16, 1993

Honorable Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6300

Dear Senator Pell:

I'm writing to re-introduce myself and request your support for the creation of a Lawyer's Committee on the Arts for the Rhode Island Bar Association. Please let me emphasize that this is distinguishable from the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, which deals with pro bono legal services.

A request for authorization to form such a committee is presently pending with the Bar Association's Executive Director. I've learned that the process can be expedited through assurances that such a committee will be actively supported by appropriate persons.

As Rhode Island's leading citizen supporting the arts, your participation as an honorary member of this committee will certainly be a valuable contribution to its success, as well as to its stature as a new committee.

I have seen such committees make valuable contributions to community life, for artists and non-artists alike. For a number of years, I was a member of both the New York State and City Bar Association Committees on Art Law. The membership includes many of New York's leading attorneys in the arts. These committees positively affect community support for the arts, protect economic and constitutional rights for the arts, and enhance communication amongst arts organizations toward mutually beneficial objectives.

At this moment when Rhode Island is confronting its economic, social and cultural future, could there be a better time for the creation of such a committee? For example, in the very near future, Providence can become a major urban center for the arts with the fulfillment of its current vision for downtown. In this challenge, as well as others in the arts, a Lawyers' Committee on the Arts can be a powerful and positive influence, without competing for individual or organizational advantage at others' expense.

By way of relevant update, I'm enclosing my curriculum vitae. Several legal colleagues, such as Pamelee McFarland (ACLU), Elizabeth Colt (Michaelson Firm), Deming Sherman (Edwards & Angell-Chairman of the Rhode Island Philharmonic), Thomas Reilly (President-Providence Art Club) and others, have already joined.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for continued support.

Sincerely,



Charles Grossman