

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2012 7:24 PM
To: 'bzahler@nycourts.gov'
Subject: Protecting the Public from a Demonstrably Corrupt Judge: Denise Molia

Dear Ms. Zahler-Gringer,

It appears from the below two articles from Long Island Newsday that the Suffolk Co. GOP is running Denise Molia for a Family Court judgeship, not for re-election to the Supreme Court.

IF Justice Molia has submitted herself for evaluation by the Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission for the 10th Judicial District– or yet does so – I request to be immediately contacted so that I might provide testimony, under oath, as to her corruption in office – fully chronicled by my motions to disqualify her for demonstrated actual bias and interest, which I furnished to Chief Administrative Judge Pfau under a June 14, 2011 letter – and which Chief Administrative Judge Pfau sent to the Commission on Judicial Conduct, which then dumped the complaint.

CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, posts this June 14, 2011 letter to Chief Administrative Judge Pfau, accessible *via* the sidebar panel "Test Cases", which links to a webpage listing a State-NY-Landlord/Tenant case. Hitting the link for that Landlord/Tenant case brings up the letter – and the subsequent correspondence, including my November 23, 2011 letter to Chief Administrative Judge Pfau, notifying her of what the Commission had done. For your convenience, here's the direct link: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/test-cases/test-case-ny-landlord-tenant.htm>

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
 Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
 646-220-7987

Judge faces political peril

Brand, Rick. *Newsday* [Long Island, N.Y] 24 May 2012: A.11.

Appellate Justice James M. Catterson's chances for Republican renomination to a second 14-year term are "uncertain," according to top party officials who failed late yesterday to hammer out a ticket before tonight's party convention in Smithtown.

The Supreme Court nominations will not be formally made until September, but Catterson's fate is already in play because Suffolk GOP leaders bartering over a Family

Court and two county court judgeships that also could involve the two Suffolk Supreme Court judgeships, Catterson's and Denise Molia's - who are up for re-election. The GOP convention is set for tonight at the Smithtown Elks Lodge.

"Uncertain is an accurate word," said Anthony Pancella, Babylon GOP chair. "There hasn't been a lot of support for him initially around the room among leaders. ... He just wasn't warmly embraced."

Before yesterday's meeting, John Jay LaValle, Suffolk Republican chairman, emphasized there's been no final decisions, noting former Gov. George Pataki and former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato have lobbied him to back Catterson, the son of late Suffolk District Attorney James M. Catterson Jr.

"It's all up in the air," said LaValle. "I wouldn't say anyone is in trouble, nor would I say that anyone is safe. ... Everyone has their own horse in this race."

However, several top political officials indicated Catterson's prospects are bleak.

Catterson, 53, of Mount Sinai, first won the nod for his judgeship in 1998, with the help of his father, the often combative prosecutor who died in 2007, and then-Suffolk and Brookhaven GOP chairman John Powell, who died earlier this year.

Catterson, who has been meeting with party leaders, did not return calls for comment.

Some experts say the political landscape for judges can become treacherous after a lengthy term. "By the time your term runs out, things can change dramatically," said Paul Sabatino, former chief deputy county executive. "Fourteen years later, they don't know who you are and you're an asterisk on a political footnote."

The scrum for the ticket includes Brookhaven Republicans, who are looking to make the town's Democratic Highway Superintendent John Rouse a county court judge. The Babylon GOP and Independence Party back GOP District Court Judge John Iliou for County Court to a seat that will be vacated by retiring County Court Justice James F.X. Doyle, of the Independence Party.

Islip Republicans back former legislative candidate William Garbarino for state Supreme Court and threaten a primary against Rouse, if denied. Meanwhile, Conservatives, according to party sources, are looking to make Rudy Cartier, a law partner of Brookhaven Conservative chairman Ken Auerbach, a Supreme Court nominee.

Republicans also are eyeing the possibility of moving County Court Judge Gary Weber, 68, to state Supreme Court, where he would serve two years until reaching retirement age when the party could run a new candidate, but allow Weber to stay for up to six years under two-year extensions. Some have also raised the prospect of Molia moving down to run for the Family Court judgeship rather than Supreme Court.

Credit: RICK BRAND rick.brand@newsday.com

GOP roster of judicial candidates

Brand, Rick. *Newsday* [Long Island, N.Y] 25 May 2012: A.15

According to a May 25, 2012 article in Long Island Newsday, "Suffolk GOP Names Judicial Candidates", Justice Molia had been seeking re-election to the Supreme Court, but was , rather, election to the Suffolk County Family Court.

Suffolk Republicans named Democrat John Rouse, Brookhaven's highway superintendent, as their candidate for County Court judge last night.

The party also named Denise Molia, now a State Supreme Court justice who had been seeking re-election to the 14-year post, as a candidate for Family Court judge, which has a 10-year term.

Rouse, who was present at the convention at the Smithtown Elks Lodge, said he was "humbled and honored by the Republican nomination."

Jesse Garcia, Brookhaven GOP chairman who pushed for Rouse's nomination, said he doesn't expect any difficulty with Rouse being a Democrat because Rouse was once a Republican prosecutor. Garcia added that the GOP has endorsed Rouse when he ran as a Democrat to be highway superintendent.

Molia later declined to comment when asked for a reaction to her nomination.

John Jay LaValle, Suffolk Republican chairman, said Molia "is a great judge," but noted there was a lot of competition for the two State Supreme Court slots and "she decided on certainty instead of the liquidity" of vying for a Supreme Court seat.

LaValle also said it appeared that the other State Supreme Court Justice James M. Catterson appeared safe for renomination, to formally occur in September, although some details still need to be worked out.

The party did not renominate County Court Judge Gary Weber of Southampton for his county judgeship but LaValle said he was still in contention for another judgeship.

The party also nominated District Court Judge John Iliou for the County Court judgeship now held by James F.X. Doyle, an Independence Party member who this year reached the mandatory retirement age of 70.

Republicans also designated candidates for Congress: 1st C.D., Randy Altschuler; 2nd C.D., Steve Labate; and 3rd C.D., Peter King.

The GOP nominated all its incumbents for State Senate and Assembly and named the following Assembly challengers: Deborah McKee, 4th District and Manuel Troche, 6th District. GOP officials left vacant nominations in the 1st A.D. against Assemb. Fred Thiele (I-Sag Harbor) and the 11th A.D. against Assemb. Robert Sweeney (D-Lindenhurst).

Catterson, first elected 14 years ago, is the son of late Suffolk District Attorney James M. Catterson Jr.

Credit: RICK BRAND rick.brand@newsday.com