

## Cross-endorsements called a 'corrupt' deal by lawyer

Lawyer Doris Sassower, who last week went before a state appellate court in Albany attempting to overturn the election of three Westchester judges, used a broad brush to paint the cross-endorsement agreement that let them run without major party opposition.

"A corrupt political deal," Sassower called it. The judges — Surrogate Alfred Emanueilli, and Supreme Court Justices Francis Nikolai and Howard Miller — were nothing more than "chess pieces to be manipulated" by the party bosses, she said. Bartering judgeships, she continued, was no better than selling them.

The respondents — who included the judges, Democrat and Republican county leaders as well as both state and county boards of elections — were more restrained in their replies.

Westchester GOP counsel Guy Parise represented himself as well as GOP Chairman Anthony Colavita and the party before the panel. He maintained the deal wasn't a contract and didn't bind the participants as Sassower charged. It was only "an agreement" of the executive committees.

*Party Line was written by staff writers David McKay Wilson and Ed Tagliaferri.*