

Interim appointee may stage primary challenge to win county court seat

Move would pit Herold against GOP leadership

By David McKay Wilson
Staff Writer

ALBANY — J. Radley Herold, confirmed yesterday as an interim judge on the Westchester County Court, is considering a primary challenge to win that seat for a 10-year term.

Herold made public his intent after his confirmation hearing for a seven-month appointment to

the court. Herold was later confirmed by the Senate as was Ingrid Braslow of White Plains, who was named to the Westchester County Family Court.

Herold and Braslow will fill vacant positions on the bench until Dec. 31. Braslow, a Democrat, will face Terry Jane Ruderman, a Scarsdale Republican, on the November ballot.

Herold said he was considering challenging Yonkers City Court Judge Emmett Murphy in a September primary. Murphy, a Republican, has recently received the endorsement of both the Democratic and Republican



J. Radley Herold Ingrid Braslow parties.

Herold's primary threat would pit him against the GOP leadership, which had struck a three-year deal on several judi-

cial appointments with the Democrats.

That pact has Murphy in line for the seat on the county court that Herold will fill on a temporary basis.

"I'd like to return to the Westchester County Court, and this time, I'd like to stay there," Herold told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Herold, a Scarsdale Republican, said he would decide soon whether he would challenge Murphy or seek the GOP nomination for a vacant seat on the state Supreme Court.

Herold could begin circulat-

ing petitions Monday for a primary challenge, state Board of Elections spokesman David Flanagan said.

"The question is, Do I challenge the cross-endorsement of Murphy or do I go for another court position?" he said. "I'll have to cross that bridge very soon."

Guy Parisi, counsel to the Westchester County Republican Party, seemed surprised by Herold's statement.

"If he chooses to run it's his prerogative, but it's odd he never came to us requesting he be considered," he said.

Mark Weingarten, executive director of the Westchester County Democratic Committee, said he was shocked by Herold's possible challenge.

"He'd be making an error to do so," Weingarten said. "I'd doubt if he'd have any friends left."

But Doris Sassower, counsel to the Ninth Judicial Committee, which has challenged the cross-endorsement process, encouraged Herold to throw his hat in the ring. "We need to have choices in these elections rather than candidates handpicked by the political bosses," she said.