

FROM: DORIS L. SASSOWER

2/11/92

7:45 p.m.

DATE

TIME

ELAINE ELLIS, GANNETT--and her editors:
Jeff Walsh, Mike Brown, Carolyn Treadway

TO:

694-5018

FAX NUMBER:

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This fax consists of a total of _____ pages, including this cover sheet. If you do not receive the indicated number of pages, or if there is a question as to the transmittal, please call (914) 997-8105

MESSAGE:

This is to memorialize a conversation with you about an hour ago wherein you stated that you are writing a story without benefit of the documentary evidence offered you as to the facts and law--neither of which are reflected by Judge Collabella's purely retaliatory Decision and Commitment Order--the latest product of his totally biased rulings and refusal to disqualify himself from a proceeding in which I was involved. He was required to do this by law and the Code of Judicial Ethics, compelling a judge to disqualify himself "in a matter in which his impartiality might reasonably be questioned".

As you were informed, I served as pro bono counsel for ^{the next} two years in litigation in which Anthony Colavita was a named defendant, based on the Three Year cross-endorsements deal struck by him and his Democratic counterpart back in 1989, trading seven judgeships of the Ninth Judicial District, including the Surrogate position. Mr. Colavita's first choice for Surrogate was Nicholas Colabella. Indeed, Judge Colabella's long and close friendship with Mr. Colavita got him on the bench in the first place. Judge Colabella had been Mr. Colavita's law partner up until then, they had been childhood chums, gone to school together, and their families had been friends from childhood on.

The reason Judge Colabella did not move into that position as per the 1989 deal was because the Democrats would not accept him--or anyone else who had taken, as he did, a Right to Life endorsement.

Judge Colabella was hand-picked by Administrative Judge Ingrassia to preside over the Wolstencroft case--a fact which he acknowledged "on the record", as well as the fact that Judge Ingrassia told him that he "could have some fun" with this case.

FROM: DORIS L. SASSOWER p. 2
TO: Elaine Ellis

Politically motivated decision-making was precisely what I complained about in the Breslaw case, which Gannett sensationalized and never reported fairly or accurately. Your paper has refused my repeated requests for retraction and correction.

Because you stated that you did not have the faxed pages of the Commission on Government Integrity's Report, "The Blurred Line"--which my daughter transmitted at about 4:30 this afternoon--she retransmitted those pages. Also transmitted is my October 24, 1991 letter to the Governor calling for the appointment of a special prosecutor. That letter was previously both hand-delivered and faxed to Gannett newspapers--which refused to print anything about it.

I might add that this is consistent with Gannett's protection of certain judges and political interests--Justice Fredman being one of them. Indeed, Gannett has never printed anything about the political relationship between Justice Fredman and Harvey Landau. Will Gannett, likewise, suppress the facts relative to the relationship between Justice Colabella and Anthony Colavita?

This letter reiterates that we do not intend to tolerate a repeat of Gannett's sensationalized distortion of the proceedings before Justice Fredman in its reporting of proceedings before Justice Colabella.

*This page
corrects
errors in
the 2nd page
previously
sent.*

ERS