

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

P. O. Box 69  
Gedney Station  
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Tel. (914) 421-1200  
Fax (914) 684-6554  
E-Mail: probono69@aol.com

FAX COVER SHEET

*Please distribute immediately*

This fax transmission consists of a total of 4 pages including this cover page. If you have not received all the pages, please call (914) 421-1200.

DATE: 10/31/96 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: GANNETT NEWS - BRUCE GOLDING TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX #: 644-5018 RE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Seth Pearson, Media Liaison

**NOTE:** The information herein contained is PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL, intended for the use of the intended recipient, named above. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent or employee responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this document or the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us immediately by telephone at the above indicated telephone number and return the original facsimile to us at the above address by mail. You will be reimbursed for all costs incurred. Thank you!

MESSAGE: Press release re: Judicial candidates in the 9th Judicial District.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

Box 69  
Iney Station  
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Tel. (914) 421-1200  
Fax (914) 684-6554  
E-Mail: probono69@aol.com

*Please distribute  
immediately*

FAX COVER SHEET

This fax transmission consists of a total of 4 pages including this cover page. If you have not received all the pages, please call (914) 421-1200.

DATE: 10/31/96 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: FANNETT NEWS. DAVID MCKAY TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
*4/12/97*

FAX #: 694-5018 RE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Beth Reason, Media Liaison

**NOTE:** The information herein contained is **PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL**, intended for the use of the intended recipient, named above. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent or employee responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this document or the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us immediately by telephone at the above indicated telephone number and return the original facsimile to us at the above address by mail. You will be reimbursed for all costs incurred. Thank you!

MESSAGE: Press release re: Judicial candidates in  
the 9th Judicial District.

# CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

P. O. Box 69, Gedney Station  
White Plains, New York 10605-0069

Tel. (914) 421-1200 E-Mail: [judgewatch@aol.com](mailto:judgewatch@aol.com)  
Fax (914) 684-6554 Web site: <http://www.judgewatch.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 31, 1996

## PRESS RELEASE

### BAR ASSOCIATIONS REFUSE TO FURNISH DATA SUBSTANTIATING THEIR RATINGS OF JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Recent requests to the Westchester Bar Association and Westchester Women's Bar Association for data on the four judicial candidates in the race for two State Supreme Court posts in the Ninth Judicial District of New York -- Judge J. Emmett Murphy (D), Judge John R. LaCava (R), and Judge W. Denis Donovan (R), rated by the Associations as "well qualified", and practitioner Michele Bernel (D) rated "qualified" -- have been disregarded, according to the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

The Center, based in White Plains, New York, is a non-profit, non-partisan organization working to make the public aware of the corrupting effects of political influence on the judicial selection and discipline processes so as to bring about a judiciary comprised of the most qualified lawyers.

The requested data included the biographic and other information supplied by the judicial candidates, as well as a copy of the Association's blank form judicial questionnaire which all candidates are required to complete. The Center considers the requested information to be essential for voters to be able to choose candidates free of political ties and who are most qualified for judicial office.

According to the Center, it also sought to obtain such information directly from the four judicial candidates running for the two Supreme Court vacancies, and was either refused such information, or, in the case of Judge LaCava, it was promised such information, but ultimately not provided with any. The Center also requested biographic information on the candidates from the Office of the Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, and was told they did not have such information, and that they would not release it, if they did.

The Center further reports that, prior to release of the ratings, it offered the County Bar Association and the Westchester Women's Bar Association negative information concerning the judicial candidates and that the Associations were not interested in receiving it. The Center reports that it has documented complaints establishing serious judicial misconduct by candidates Murphy and Donovan.

Judge Murphy's participation in the 1989 judge-trading deal between the Democratic and Republican parties in the Ninth Judicial District, in which seven judgeships were cross-endorsed

**MORE**

over a three-year period, resulted in his being elected, uncontested, to his present 10-year term on the Westchester County Court in 1991. The deal, which was in writing (copy appended), was the subject of several lawsuits, *Castracan v. Colavita*, *Maxey v. Cuomo*, including one directed specifically against Judge Murphy, *Sady v. Murphy*. The Center believes the voters should be informed about the Deal and these lawsuits, establishing that Judge Murphy's bar rating of "well-qualified" is undeserved.

As to Justice Donovan, court transcripts and other documentation in the Center's archives establish a pattern of abusive and sadistic behavior toward litigants, as well as gross disrespect for fundamental, constitutionally guaranteed due process rights.

As a result of the Bar Associations' inadequate investigation into the candidates qualifications, their ratings, which have been relied upon by the media and the voters are, according to the Center, unreliable. The documented evidence in the Center's possession suggests that the Bar Association ratings are misleading the public into believing that they are being protected from nomination of dishonest, abusive, and incompetent judges, when, in fact, they are not.

###

---

Further information concerning the Center and its positions is available on request.