

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: judgwatch@aol.com
On the Web: <http://www.judgwatch.org>

FAX COVER SHEET

This fax transmission consists of a total of 2 pages including this cover page. If you have not received all the pages, please call (914) 421-1200.

DATE: 11/14/96 TIME: 11:30 A.M.

TO: Ron Patafio TITLE: Editor

FAX #: 696-8396 RE: Reply to Golding 11/5/96 story

FROM: DLS

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: Per our phone conversation a few
minutes ago, here are three small changes
to be made in the final copy:
Is it possible to have some
reference to the fact (maybe in a
separate box) that CJA has recently
gained tax-exempt status
and is now inviting donations
from the public so that it can
undertake vitally needed projects in
1997. Please call me. Don

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC. is a national, non-partisan, not-for-profit citizens' organization raising public consciousness about how judges break the law and get away with it.

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: judgewatch@aol.com
Web site: <http://www.judgewatch.org>

Fax: 914-696-8636
November 12, 1996

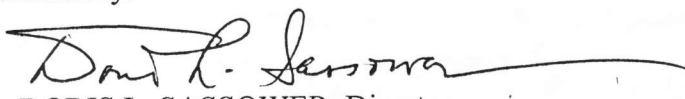
Gannett Newspapers
Letters to the Editor

Your story "Group Questions Bars Rankings" (11/5/96) compels this reply. The methods used by the Westchester County and Westchester Women's Bar Associations to rate judicial nominees are as indefensible as the quoted statement of their Presidents that the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., "declined to participate in the [ratings] process". That statement is absolutely untrue. Not only did they never extend us any invitation to do so, but they showed no interest in the negative information we proffered -- well before the elections. *Election Day.* ✓

Our recent and past experience with these and other bar associations has shown that their judicial rating process does not rest on adequate investigation, even where adverse information is brought to their attention. It is because these bar associations know that they have given their stamp of approval to unqualified and unfit political hacks that they hide behind an unwarranted "confidentiality" to deprive the public of its "right to know."

That these two bar presidents could freely *admit* to having withheld the requested biographic and other substantiating information to support their "well-qualified" and "qualified" judicial ratings -- relied upon by the media and the voters -- demonstrates that these bar associations do not respect basic democratic principles. It should be obvious that information provided to the bar associations by *already-nominated* judicial candidates should be available to the electorate before it can be expected to vote intelligently in choosing one candidate over another.

It is because the public has been consistently denied access to the free flow of information in matters relating to the judiciary that two of these bar-rated "well-qualified" judicial nominees, Judges J. Emmett Murphy and W. Denis Donovan, against whom the Center has documented complaints of serious judicial misconduct, have succeeded in being elected, and re-elected, to the Supreme Court of the Ninth Judicial District. Thus, on their forthcoming induction in January 1997, they will commence new *fourteen-year* terms -- despite the continuing threat they pose to this community.


DORIS L. SASSOWER, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

✓ The Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. is a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization, based in White Plains, NY, working for fundamental change in the way lawyers become, and remain, judges. *citizens' action*