

ELI VIGLIANO

Attorney-at-Law (Ret.)

**3050 Fairfield Avenue
New York, NY 10463**

VIA FAX: 914-696-8396

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Att: Ron Patafio, Editorial Page Editor

Bruce Golding's August 29th article on "out of control" jurists shows that only after lawyers are gored do they see fit to complain.

In 1989, members of the local bar and Pace Law faculty turned a deaf ear as the Ninth Judicial Committee vainly sought to require impartial screening of judicial candidates and protested the illegal 3-year, 7-judge Republican-Democratic cross-endorsement deal, engineered by party bosses, Anthony Colavita and Sam Fredman. Fredman got a 14-year Supreme Court judgeship out of the deal, along with Albert Emanuelli; the other five beneficiaries of the deal all similarly ran unopposed!

Denying voters their constitutionally guaranteed right of election choice, it put the political foxes in charge of the courthouse. In 1990, after then Supreme Court Judge Emanuelli resigned, on cue, to run, uncontested, for Westchester County Surrogate, the Ninth Judicial Committee turned to the courts for relief. Doris L. Sassower, serving as counsel, *pro bono*, valiantly challenged that corrupt deal in *Castracan v. Colavita*, Index # 6056/90 (Albany Co.); in 1991, in *Sady v. Murphy* (Sup. Ct., Westchester Co.), and in *Maxey v. Cuomo* (Dist.Ct., SDNY), NJC sought to nullify a new "behind the scenes" deal that put Judge Barone on the Supreme Court bench by Donald Silverman and Judge West agreeing to withdraw their candidacies and assure him of victory. All courts denied relief.

Prevention is better than a cure. Lawyers and citizens should support the Ninth Judicial Committee and its continuing efforts to establish nonpartisan judicial screening committees. Rubber stamp approval of unqualified judicial candidates and political cross endorsement deals to put and keep them in office do not serve the public weal.

ELI VIGLIANO, Riverdale, NY

The writer is the founder and chairman of the Ninth Judicial Committee, and can be reached at (718) 884-3747.