

Subj: **AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECTIFY A SERIOUS WRONG**

Date: 11/1/2001 11:20:58 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Judgewatch

To: croyle@thejournalnews.gannett.com,

, letters@thejournalnews.gannett.com

Dear Ms. Royle,

This is to memorialize my most shocking telephone call conversation with Editorial Page Editor Ron Pataño a few minutes ago, at 10:45 a.m., wherein he stated that he would not publish my Letter to the Editor sent to him yesterday, as he similarly refused to publish my prior letters and that of Eli Vigliano, founder and Chairman of the Ninth Judicial Committee.

When I pressed for reasons, he stated that (a) it was an attack on the paper and (b) my piece was "baseless". He did not deny that the paper has published other attacks on it for inadequate coverage and did not deny the truth of the statements I made concerning the newspaper's conflict of interest or specify any respect whatever in which what I said about the paper's failure to publish proffered information about the candidates endorsed by the paper was baseless. He did not deny that he was repeatedly provided and offered documentation to support every statement or charge made by me.

He confirmed having read all my material sent yesterday and in the past. This included information sent him most recently referring to Jay Hashmail in the context of the no-bid county contracts with Ralph Arred's company and Mark Oxman, impacting on endorsed candidate Andrew Spano, as well as endorsed candidates DA Pirro, Mayor Delfino, Judge Fria, and Supreme Court Justices Colabella (who tried a case of mine, (without disclosing he was a former law partner of Republican Party Chairman Anthony Colavita, who had put Colabella on the bench) after every other judge in the Courthouse had recused himself from the case because of lawsuits against him in which I was involved challenging the 1989 bipartisan seven judge, three year trading deal Colavita had put together – and Rosato.

He did not deny that he had been proffered documentation to show these public officers to be unworthy of the public trust and asked me no questions whatever about anything I said.

Under the circumstances, the failure and refusal to publish my letter, to report or investigate the true facts as to the newspaper's bias and the unreliability of its endorsements showed, as stated to him, that what I said was not "baseless" at all. He stated his decision was final and although I cautioned him that this was "serious stuff", he said he would not change his mind.

I would hope you would agree that Mr. Pataño's behavior is inappropriate for a newspaper that has any commitment to ethical journalism and responsibility and recognize that your newspaper is unfairly influencing the upcoming election vote, if it suppress my letter and that of Eli Vigliano – without any news coverage whatever of the issues we have raised and brought to the attention of news reporter Keith Eddings weeks ago, his editor, Dan Greenstein, your news reporter, Susan Elan, and her editor, Cathy O'Donnell.

Doris L. Sassower, co-founder and administrator, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

I am disappointed, but not surprised to have heard nothing from you in response to me e-mails, which your assistant, Rochelle Abrams, confirmed with you this morning when I called that you had received. As your page 2 daily states: "Accuracy, fairness and balance are important to us", I again ask that you provide the oversight Ms. Royle advised is within your power to assure that my point of view and that of Mr. Vigliano are published by your newspaper, preferably BEFORE ELECTION DAY.

To recap the most recent events relating to the complained of noncoverage:

Eli Vigliano, Chairman of the Ninth Judicial Committee, a local group working to improve the administration of justice in the Ninth Judicial District (including Westchester) last week submitted a 750 word fact-specific piece providing information concerning inter alia, Jay Hashmall, the subject of your frontpage story of yesterday, which Mr. Patafio refused to publish as "not relevant", a patently untrue statement.

A timely 250 word Letter to the Editor by Mr. Vigliano was offered Mr. Patafio and again rejected by Mr. Patafio.

Mr. Patafio told me I had until 5 p.m. Wednesday, the last day he would accept pre-Election material, to submit a letter in my name to him. I met that deadline only to be met again with feeble excuses for not publishing it.

A copy of my initial letter to you and Ms. Royle and the attachments is being re-forwarded herewith for the additional information of your Reader Service Editor, Meryl Harris, who is quite familiar with my prior noncoverage complaints relating to the First Assembly of God Church issue and the dereliction of our Mayor and Common Council Members now also running for reelection.

Thank you in advance for the courtesy of a reply.

Doris L. Sassower

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