

CENTER FOR JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC. (CJA)

A national nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization documenting the dysfunction, politicization and corruption of the closed-door processes of judicial selection and discipline on federal, state and local levels. Its mission is to ensure judicial independence and integrity by requiring that only the most highly qualified trial lawyers become, and remain, judges

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TO:
Opinion Editor/ Community View/
Letters

FROM:
DORIS L. SASSOWER, President

COMPANY:
Journal News

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RE:
Today's News story on p.1 Bradley-
Delfino

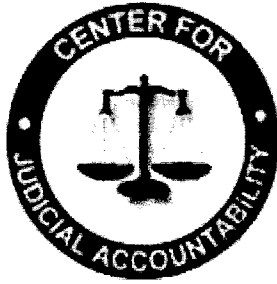
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MESSAGE

Self-explanatory letter herewith

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Thursday, February 04, 2010

To: Journal News/ Lohud.com

Opinion Editor, Community View, Letters

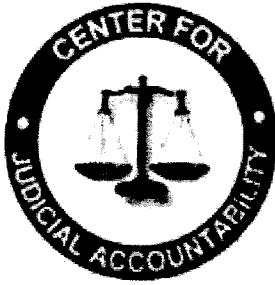
Kudos to Ben Rubin and Journal News on his excellent investigative reporting 1/31/10 "New mayor gets blank slate on documents" and its related 2/2/10 "Right to know is left in shreds" Editorial! It is high time the chickens came home to roost.

This deservedly front-page story is a Watergate *déjà vu*, raising serious questions. Why was the shredding shrouded in secrecy for so long and what enforcement steps, if any, have been initiated by the state's Committee on Open Government or other public bodies or officers, not conflicted as Mayor Bradley now discloses himself to be?

The case against Mr. Delfino does not rest on mere *suspicion*, but on his own admissions and dispositive proof. For years, this City has been controlled by a Republican administration completely clueless as to the meaning of due process and the People's right to know. I say this as a public advocate with first-hand knowledge of countless demonstrative instances and extensive irrefutable documentation thereof, recorded on the City's own videotapes, email, and written communications with the Mayor, showing his arbitrary, abusive, politically-motivated conduct, as well as of his various appointees. Such includes some of his Commissioners and others still holding public office (perhaps their Democratic ties

MORE

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helped) -- most egregiously, his City Court judges,
<http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/cja/latest-news.htm> "The corrupt judicial appointment process in the City of White Plains."

Presumably, all such content in the Mayor's files were shredded *to protect the guilty, who punished the innocent*, along with the data provided to the Mayor by his sham "judicial screening committees," which routinely "rubber-stamped" his unqualified mayoral judicial City Court nominees.

Such palpable violations of official duty, knowing, deliberate and routinely repeated, constitute a flagrant pattern and practice, criminally and civilly punishable, inimical to a democracy based on constitutional values and the Rule of Law. Indeed, they have adversely affected, if not destroyed, the rights of many in our White Plains community, myself included.

We call for Journal News' continued investigation and exposure so that our new Mayor can learn the value -- as our citizenry, who are "true believers" in good government, already know -- of public access and accountability. Mayor Bradley's inaugurally-vaunted "New Era for White Plains" must not be allowed to degenerate into a return to the old politics by more favored treatment for longtime "friends of the family," as appears obvious from Rubin's 2/4/09, p.1 news story "White Plains mayor gives predecessor a pass on shredding."

An appropriately outraged public will not permit Mayor Bradley's intended inaction to become the exemplar for other public officials.

Doris L. Sassower has lived in White Plains for nearly 30 years. She is a cofounder and president of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization, and has worked, *pro bono*, since 1989, to protect and advance the public interest in the integrity of our judicial selection and judicial discipline processes. CJA's mission is to ensure that only the most qualified trial lawyers become, and remain judges.

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