

Democrats OK multiparty judicial endorsements

By Milton Hoffman
Senior Editor/Politics Writer

A bipartisan agreement calling for cross-endorsement of major judicial candidates in Westchester and other 9th Judicial District counties cleared its first major hurdle last night, winning overwhelming approval by the Westchester Democratic Executive Committee.

Under the agreement, which will go before the Westchester Republican Executive Committee tonight, the two parties pledge their support of specific candidates for judicial office this year, in 1990 and in 1991.

This year, the two parties would support state Supreme Court Justice Samuel Fredman of White Plains, a Democrat now serving by appointment, as well as two Republicans, Justice Joseph Giudice of Dutchess County and lawyer Albert J. Emanuelli of

White Plains, for three seats on the state Supreme Court bench in the 9th Judicial District. The district covers Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess, and Orange counties.

Next year, under the proposal, Emanuelli would resign from the Supreme Court late in the year and run for surrogate with support from both parties. Running for his Supreme Court seat and getting the endorsement of both parties would be Westchester County Court Judge Francis Nicolai of Thornwood. In the final part of the deal, the Democrats would support Westchester Family Judge Adrienne Hofmann Scancarelli of Mount Vernon, a Republican, for re-election while Republicans would support Yonkers City Judge J. Emmett Murphy, a Democrat, for Nicolai's vacant County Court seat.

The agreement, hammered out after eight months of talks between Westchester Democratic Chairman Richard Weingarten and Westchester Republican Chairman Anthony Colavita, was reached "in furtherance of a mutual interest to promote a nonpartisan judiciary by lawyers with universally acclaimed litigation skills, unblemished reputations for character and judicial temperament and distinguished civic careers. . . ."

Each of the judge candidates,

the pact said, will refrain from partisan political endorsements during the ensuing election campaign and "will provide equal access and consideration, if any, to the recommendations of the leaders of each major political party in connection with proposed judicial appointments."

About 30 Democrats attended the executive board meeting at party headquarters in White Plains, and all voted for the measure except two who abstained.

GOP supports move to make county judiciary non-partisan

By Milton Hoffman
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The Westchester Republican Executive Committee voted unanimously last night to join their Democratic counterparts in pledging to cross-endorse some judicial candidates over the next three years.

Meeting at GOP headquarters in White Plains, the Republicans ratified the agreement that its chairman, Anthony Colavita, had worked out over the past eight months with Westchester Democratic Chairman Richard Weingarten. The Democrats approved the pact Wednesday night.

Both chairmen called the agreement "historic" and said its success depends on the good faith of each party. "If it works out this way, I think it will be good for the people of Westchester and the 9th Judicial District," Colavita said.

This year, the two parties will support Democrat Samuel Fredman of White Plains, serving on the state Supreme Court by appointment, as well as two Republicans, state Supreme Court Justice Joseph Giudice of Dutchess and White Plains lawyer Albert Emanuelli for three seats on the Supreme Court, 9th Judicial District.

Emanuelli will resign late in the year to run for Westchester surrogate with the backing of both parties, and Democratic County Judge Francis Nicolai of Thornwood will get the backing of both parties, also. Later, both parties will support Family Court Judge Adrienne Hofmann Scancarelli of Mount Vernon, a Republican, for re-election, and Yonkers City Judge J. Emmett Murphy, a Democrat, for Nicolai's vacated seat in county court.

EXHIBIT 2

Retold - 8/25/89 p.A.-11.
Stefelman