

NYC 12/30/82

# **Letters To the Editor**

## **Changes Needed In Judicial Selection**

*To the Editor:*

I wish to echo the sentiments expressed by Judge Leff in his letter to the *Law Journal* of Dec. 22 with reference to judicial selection panels.

While the four nominees for the Court of Appeals are undoubtedly of the highest caliber, and each would be a credit to that court, the method of selection has created problems for the Governor-elect. Any such panel should have as its *sole* mandate, the determination of whether a candidate is qualified or not without a numerical limitation and it should be left to the executive or such other entity required to make the nomination, to select from that group. That would place the responsibility where it belongs, with an individual or individuals who must justify their selections to the electorate. If considerations in addition to ability enter into the nomination, including gender, race or geography, then the political entity should make that selection and be answerable for it to the people.

I would point to the Mayors Committee and the selection of Criminal Court and Family Court judges as the best method now being utilized. I urge the organized bar to re-evaluate their positions on this issue and make recommendations accordingly to the Legislature and the political entities involved.

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*The writer is an Acting Supreme Court justice in the Bronx.*

*Exhibit E-2*