

LETTERS

Hand-picking judges is also political

In his Nov. 30 response to my Nov. 4 guest column, Samuel Yasgur, attorney for Surrogate-elect Albert J. Emanuelli, stated: "It is important that people know the real facts." We could not agree with him more. The public needs to know about the judge-trading deal made by Republican and Democratic party bosses and how Mr. Emanuelli and other lawyers were hand-picked by such bosses — without any open pre-nomination screening process, e.g. non-partisan panels, such as those long in use in New York City.

Mr. Yasgur's article is replete with distortions, evasions and misstatements — not the least of which is his claim that the deal was "an effort to depoliticize the election of judges." What could be more political than replacing a choice between contesting candidates in open competition with a single slate created by the collusion of two political machines.

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