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FAX COVER SHEET

This fax transmission consists of a total of 2 ~~16~~ pages including this cover page. If you have not received all the pages, please call (914) 421-1200.

DATE: 11/15/96 TIME: 10:45 AM.

TO: Ron Patafio TITLE: Editor

FAX #: 696-8396 RE: Your edited version of my

FROM: Doris L. Sarason letter

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MESSAGE: Herewith my corrections of what
you just faxed to me.
Please call me to discuss
further. Do you plan to do
anything about the omitted last
paragraph? And when can
we have a "Who We Are" @lance?

A Nov. ⁵15^e story, "Group questions bar rankings," compels this reply. The methods used by the Westchester County and Westchester Women's Bar Associations to rate judicial nominees are as indefensible as the statement of their presidents that the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., "declined to participate in the (ratings) process." The statement is absolutely untrue. Not only did they never extend us any invitation to do so, but they showed no interest in the negative information we proffered, well before the elections.

Our experience with these and other bar associations has shown that their judicial rating process does not rest on adequate investigation, even where adverse information is brought to their attention. It is because these bar associations know that they have given their stamp of approval to unqualified and unfit candidates that they hide behind an unwarranted "confidentiality" to deprive the public of its right to know.

That these two bar presidents could freely admit to having withheld the requested biographic and other substantiating information to support their "well-qualified" and "qualified" judicial ratings ~~relied upon~~ by the media and the voters ~~demonstrates~~ that the associations do not respect basic democratic principles. It should be obvious that information provided to the bar associations by already-nominated judicial candidates should be available to the electorate before it can be expected to vote intelligently in choosing one candidate over another. DORIS L. SASSOWER

italics for emphasis

White Plains

Co-Founder

(The writer is founder of The Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.)

Co- and Director

based in White Plains.