

Mr. Vigliano:

Latest submission was about 40 words over. Here's another edited version at the right length.

Ron Patafio

Bruce Golding's Aug. 29 article on "out-of-control" jurists ("Court officials hear firm's complaints about judges") shows that only after lawyers are gored do they see fit to complain.

In 1989, members of the local bar and Pace Law School faculty turned a deaf ear as the Ninth Judicial Committee vainly sought to require impartial screening of judicial candidates and protested the illegal, three-year, seven-judge, Republican-Democratic cross-endorsement deal, engineered by party bosses Anthony Colavita and Sam Fredman. Fredman got a 14-year Supreme Court judgeship out of the deal, along with Albert Emanuelli; the other five beneficiaries of the deal all similarly ran unopposed.

Denying voters their constitutionally guaranteed right of election choice, it put the political foxes in charge of the courthouse. In 1990, after then-Supreme Court Judge Emanuelli resigned, on cue, to run, uncontested, for Westchester County Surrogate, the Ninth Judicial Committee turned to the courts for relief. That corrupt deal was valiantly challenged in 1990 by Doris L. Sasover, counsel pro bono. In another case, we sought to nullify a new "behind the scenes" deal that put Judge Barone on the Supreme Court bench. All courts denied relief.

All lawyers and citizens should support the Ninth Judicial Committee's efforts to establish nonpartisan judicial screening committees. Rubber-stamp approval of unqualified judicial candidates and political cross-endorsements do not serve the public weal.