

Subj: **Re: YOUR RESPONSE TO AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECTIFY A SERIOUS WRONG**
 Date: 11/3/2001 11:18:00 PM Eastern Standard Time
 From: [Judgewatch](#)
 To: HFREEMAN@THEJOURNALNEWS.GANNETT.COM, croylel@thejournalnews.gannett.com,
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Dear Mr. Freeman,

Thank you very much for responding. I want to be sure you realize that my criticisms is intended to be constructive and for the public good. I truly do have better things to do than spend my time doing a public service without pay by engaging in this sort of correspondence, which is really quite thankless, as you see. At least you get paid for that job, which is a lot more comforting, I am sure.

I might also mention that I am presently recuperating from major surgery and took time away from my medical needs at personal sacrifice because of the critical importance of the issues I felt impelled to raise in order to correct the misleading statements of your newspaper.

I do also thank you for passing on my letters to appropriate editors and reporters, and hope that does some good in eliciting investigation of the complaint I have made and the issues I have raised.

For the record, I do need to state that if there are any statements that you or Mr. Patafio felt were "misleading" on my part or "character assassination" by me, all you or he had to do was to specify what they were and you can be sure I would have taken the time involved to rework them, if there were a legitimate reason for that to be done. Since we have never met or spoken, I must emphasize to you that neither I nor Eli Vigliano, both of whom collectively have nearly 100 years at the bar. We do not make serious accusations lightly.

Before my retirement as a practitioner, I was an "AV" rated lawyer, at the pinnacle of my profession, having been elected a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an honor reserved for less than 1/3 of one percent of the practicing bar in each state jurisdiction of the United States. My "accusations," as you call them, rest on facts, supportable by proof and are set forth not to attack anyone or your paper, as such, but solely for the good faith purpose of protecting the public from the perversion of our law and justice system that has, unfortunately, taken place because the media has woefully failed to discharge its duty to provide adequate and truthful information.

Moreover, perhaps you were unaware that I specifically authorized Ron Patafio to make any editing changes necessary in order to get the piece published, since I met the deadline and lineage stipulated and all indicated standards. You cannot possibly justify exclusion of my piece under such circumstances. It would appear that there is a sinister, discriminatory motivation at work and, if you wish to dispel that appearance of impropriety, you must let my voice and that of Eli Vigliano be heard before or at very least on Election Day so as to avoid a charge of unfair suppression.

As further illustrative of Gannett's false and unfair coverage of these issues, may I also point out that today's paper contained a news item as to the Westchester Women's Bar Association judicial ratings. It was truly shocking to see such unfair, untrustworthy ratings to be published at this late date, plainly designed to prevent a timely Letter to the Editor on that subject, which could be responsive before Election Day. This is particularly egregious, as I have taken the time and effort to let you know in past years how objectionable the Westchester Women's Bar ratings are. Like your political endorsements, they are not reliable as they, like Gannett, fail to use appropriate and available outreach resources of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., which they know, as your paper should, has compiled extensive archival data on various judges of the Ninth Judicial District. Such would have exposed Justices Colabella and Rosato as *lawbreakers*, who have no respect for the rule of law, and are each a virtual menace on the bench for their politically motivated decisions.

This is stated on direct personal knowledge and front-line experience as a lawyer and litigant with cases before these judges and know their dishonesty first hand.

I will offer the records of those cases to any investigative reporters you might assign to authenticate the truth of my statements.

Realize this, Mr. Freeman, it is too late to do the slightest bit of good to me personally whether these unfit judges are reelected or not. I am not seeking a judgeship at this stage of my life or any other public office. The Center is totally nonpolitical and nonpartisan. The Center is doing the job that needs to be done because of the systemic corruption of our justice system, due to the politicization of the bench that Mr. Vigliano and I dedicated much of our professional lives, pro bono, to prevent.

You have the power to change this rotten system, Mr. Freeman, by first understanding that I offered Gannett, freely, the benefit of my expertise as a lawyer admitted to the bar more than 45 years ago. Among my honors, I was the youngest president of the New York Women's Bar Association when I was elected to that post in 1968, president of Phi Beta Kappa Alumnae of New York State, who was instrumental in the merger of the male and female scholars, and as one who was the first woman to serve on the Judicial Selection Committee of the New York State Bar Association, on which I served from 1972 to 1980, which Committee derived its very name from an article I wrote, published on the front page of the New York Law Journal 30 years ago, and the first woman practitioner to be nominated, back in 1972, as a candidate for our state Court of Appeals. Those credentials were all earned, not politically gained. I trust you will accept those credentials as qualifying me to express my "opinion" on the subject, which your Opinion Page is supposedly designed for, I thought.

Incidentally, Mr. Freeman, did you know that there are Supreme Court justices sitting in the Westchester courthouse believe that members of the bar and taxpaying public are not entitled to know their professional credentials, when they are requested -- or of their law secretaries or other court personnel who write their decisions. Don't you think that's rather revealing? Justice Colabella's political ties and connections blatantly motivated every one of the rulings he and Justice Rosato made in the case studies I have to prove beyond question of doubt their gross unfitness.

We believe your readers would be interested in your "extensive editor's note", as we would, telling us specifically what you find "misleading" in my most recent letter or "character assassination" Just give us equal time or space to reply. We believe this would inspire greater respect for and trust in the integrity of your newspaper than suppression, which is anathema to the search for truth in a democracy.

We would welcome a chance to meet with you and your editorial board anytime on these issues and sincerely hope that after Election, some of the damage your newspaper has done the electorate by its misguided policies can be revisited and redressed. I would also ask that, if you have not already done so per request made to Ms. Abrams, you provide your publisher, Gary Sherlock, with copies of all my e-mails on the subject and attachments so that he can be made personally aware of my complaint, as well as Meryl Harris, your Readers' Representative.

Did not intend this e-mail to be so long. My apologies for that.

Doris L. Sassower
