

Friday, December 7, 2001

IDEAS & OPINION

DAILY NEWS

450 W. 33rd St., New York, N.Y. 10001

MORTIMER B. ZUCKERMAN, *Chairman & Co-Publisher*

FRED DRASNER, *Chief Executive Officer & Co-Publisher*

LES GOODSTEIN, *President & Chief Operating Officer*

EDWARD KOSNER, *Editor in Chief*

MICHAEL GOODWIN, *Executive Editor*

ROBERT SAPIO, *Senior Managing Editor*

JANE FREIMAN, MICHAEL KRAMER, LOU PARAJOS, *Managing Editors*

SCHWARTZ, *Editorial Page Editor* THOMAS P. RUIS, *Design Director*

Judicial reforms

White Plains: Re your Dec. 4 editorial "Judges betray trust of those in need": Chief Judge Judith Kaye and Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman deserve no credit for the probe into fiduciary appointments. The credit belongs to the media. If not for their coverage of the letter of two disgruntled lawyers complaining to party leaders that they were being denied patronage, Kaye would have done nothing. Away from the media spotlight, the Office of Court Administration hasn't lifted a finger when litigant and lawyer victims turned to them for help about violations of law by judges and lawyers regarding fiduciary appointments.

Moreover, the inspector general's report and follow up recommendations are an inside job. They cover up for the higherups in the court system, whose refusal to discharge their monitoring responsibilities has made abuses possible. It also covers up the corruption of other key governmental monitors — the Commission on Judicial Conduct, the attorney disciplinary committees and the attorney general's office. True reform will come only when their scandalous role is exposed.

Elena Ruth Sassower, Center for Judicial Accountability