

JOURNAL NEWS November 4, 2007

9th Judicial District, NY elections

Cross-endorsing judges objectionable

The Center for Judicial Accountability Inc., a nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization working for a quality judiciary, endorses no judicial candidates for Supreme Court, 9th Judicial District, because it opposes election of judicial candidates who are products of sham, unconstitutional judicial nominating conventions. CJA further opposes election of judicial candidates who are the product of equally corrupt party cross-endorsement deals that historically have made judicial "elections" a sham.

As a public service, the CJA is duty-bound to inform voters who NOT to vote for:

- Francis A. Nicolai, who gained his original 14-year Supreme Court judgeship in 1990 via both condemned practices.
- Rory Bellantoni, whose nomination was the end-product of the unconstitutional party-boss controlled, "rubber-stamp" judicial nominating conventions and minor party cross-endorsement deals. The voters rejected him last year in a contested Supreme Court race. They should do so again for his lack of maturity, judicial experience and accomplishment.

In Bellantoni's case, nepotism and political connections got him a noncompetitive judicial appointment by Gov. Pataki in 2003, at age 34. He had no judicial experience whatever, no distinctions or honors, no professional or civic activities, and no publications. He has many political "IOUs" to pay off to party bosses and others to whom he is politically beholden. Even if they lose, both of these lackluster judges remain on the bench for many years. See our Web site, www.judgewatch.org, particularly the sidebar panel Judicial Selection-State-NY.

Doris L. Sassower

White Plains

The writer is cofounder and administrator of the Center for Judicial Accountability Inc.