

October 25, 1990

Hon. Michael Stallman
Criminal Court
120 Schermerhorn Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

RE: Castracan v. Colavita

Dear Judge Stallman:

Per my telephone conversation with your law secretary the other day, I am enclosing the Order to Show for a Preference, returnable before the Appellate Division, Third Department, on Monday, October 29, 1990--which will bring you up-to-date on where the case now stands.

I was most disappointed to hear that you have decided to take no action to support the position advanced by Petitioners at this critical juncture. We need your help now--and the help of any one of your committee members who might wish to help on an individual basis.

I respectfully submit that the issues involved in the case, reportedly the first to challenge judicial nominations by cross-endorsement contract between party leaders and judicial nominees, represent an opportunity for the Association to achieve the kind of reform need to put quality judges, based on merit rather than politics, on the bench.

As you can see from the enclosed article, published almost twenty years ago on the front-page of the New York Law Journal, my own involvement in this important issue is one of long-standing.

I urge that you call an emergency meeting of your committee so that you can act swiftly and participate in a meaningful way in advancing the cause of needed reform.

Sincerely,

DORIS L. SASSOWER

DLS/er

cc: Hon. Oliver Koppell
Chairman, N.Y. State Assembly Judiciary Committee
Dr. M. L. Henry, Executive Director
Fund for Modern Courts
Fern Sussman, Executive Director
Alan Rothstein, Counsel
Association of the Bar of the City of New York