

LETTERS

Impartial body must oversee courts

I would like to commend Cameron McWhirter for his Dec. 17 article on Family Judge Adrienne Scancarelli. Likewise, I would also like to commend the attorney, Anthony Picciolo, for filing the complaint against Judge Scancarelli. I had similar experiences with the same judge and the Family Court here in Westchester. As we all know, the Family Court's jurisdiction is primarily with matters of family offense, child support, paternity matters, juvenile delinquency and child neglect cases. It's about time that allegations of misconduct in the Family Court and the Supreme Court be exposed in the media. A Family Court judge, or any judge for that matter, should not be exempt from this type of exposure. One of the problems to begin with is that the term of a Family Court judge lasts for 10 years. They start to feel very secure in their position, and start to think they are God, and that is when the trouble begins.

The time has come for some type of impartial governing body to preside over the courts here in Westchester, and I do not include the Commission on Judicial Conduct either. How can the commission be impartial, when it itself is comprised of former judges and people of the like? If rape cases can be televised in prime time with children at home watching, there is no reason why Family Court misconduct, or allegations of, should not be regularly exposed in the papers and investigated as well. And by the way, it shouldn't take an attorney to file a complaint about a judge's conduct to get the right attention. You see, I know a little bit about the Commission on Judicial Conduct. I've filed numerous complaints about two judges here in Westchester, and in both cases, the commission refused to investigate them. Ten months after my complaints on the first judge, he was suspended from the bench (with pay); in another case, 15 months after my complaints on the second judge, she is now the very subject of the Dec. 17 article.

We need people with guts to turn back the tidal wave of corruption and misconduct within our government and judicial system here in Westchester.

PAUL V. PONTORNO
Yorktown Heights