

DORIS L. SASSOWER

283 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE • WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. 10606 • 914/9971677 • FAX: 914/684 6554

By Fax

February 20, 1992

Gannett Newspapers
One Gannett Drive
White Plains, New York

Att: Board of Editors

You have cavalierly ignored my calls and messages left with your reporters, editors and Vice-President concerning your latest stories about me in your 2/12/92 and 2/14/92 editions. As usual, they are factually wrong, misleading, and calumnious--further evidence of Gannett's maliciousness. Your readers have a right to know the truth--which you have deliberately suppressed and distorted, while simultaneously ignoring truly newsworthy issues involved in the cases reported about. Quite clearly, your editorial "policy" is, and has consistently been for the past several years, to place me in as unfavorable light as possible.

Gannett's scandalous and shameful "cover-up" of official misconduct has likewise been on-going. You protected the judges and public officials involved in the corrupt 1989 Cross-Endorsements Deal, which traded seven judgeships in the Ninth Judicial District--including the Surrogate judgeship of Westchester County. You refused to report the documented facts concerning that Deal and the Election Law violations that

EX "Q"

occurred at the 1989 and 1990 Judicial Nominating Conventions. Gannett also refused to report and falsified the true facts in the Breslaw case to defame me--and to protect my former adversary and professional competitor, Judge Samuel G. Fredman, who orchestrated the 1989 Deal. You have now followed the identical course with the Wolstencroft case, once more knowingly and deliberately falsely and unfairly reporting the judicial proceedings before Judge Nicholas Colabella.

You have again ignored gross abuse of judicial power--as occurred in the proceedings before Justice Fredman--and the graphic and frightening proof of the extent to which politicians--turned judges will abuse the power of their public office to discharge political debts.

You were offered documents in both cases showing I was denied my right to a fair trial because of the political relationships of the judges involved, who refused to disqualify themselves on my application. The record of the case before Judge Colabella shows he was "hand-picked" by Administrative Judge Ingrassia to try the Wolstencroft case, despite the fact that Judge Ingrassia himself had denied my motion for change of venue back in September. That motion was based on judicial bias against me in this District and your equally biased and improper news coverage of matters in which I was involved.

from DLS

⑤

Gannett was well aware, as was Judge Colabella and Judge Ingrassia when he assigned my case to him--but failed to report--that I was the lawyer who sued Anthony Colavita in 1990 in major public interest litigation challenging the 1989 cross-endorsements Deal trading seven judgeships in the Ninth Judicial District--that my suspension from practice--which Gannett gratuitously did report--was the result of retaliation and denial of due process after I announced I was taking Castracan v. Colavita to the Court of Appeals--transparently designed to block appellate review of the gross violation of voters' rights that occurred at the judicial nominating conventions of 1989 and 1990. You denied your readers the true facts about that also--and instead, Gannett has repeatedly referred to my being a "suspended lawyer" in headline and text, without reference to the factually and legally unjustified and unconstitutional nature of it.

Despite my numerous demands for retraction and correction, Gannett has arrogantly continued its "hatchet job" on me for its own ulterior motives--and to benefit its friends in court, who orchestrated and profited from the 1989 Deal, abusing their public offices for their own private advantage. You have unconscionably protected these individuals, while simultaneously smearing me at any opportunity with your deliberate defamation.

Judge Colabella's sitting on any case in which I was involved was egregiously improper--for reasons Gannett shamefully chose to

More

From DLS

(S)

suppress. Juddge Colabella's relationship with Anthony Colavita goes back to their days as childhood chums, thereafter high school classmates, and later on law partners--until Mr. Colavita gave his lifetime friend the nod for a judgeship, with routine promotions since. Judge Colabella was actually Mr. Colavita's "first choice" for the Westchester Surrogate judgeship--the pivotal term of the 1989 Cross-Endorsements Deal I attacked by my legal action, supported by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the League of Women Voters--among the important facts Gannett trivialized and ignored.

Because of the Democrats' refusal to give their cross-endorsement to any candidate who had taken a Right To Life endorsement, as Judge Colabella had, Mr. Colavita had to come up with Albert Emanuelli who had no judicial experience, so that the Republicans could retain control of the Westchester Surrogate's office--the price of Republican cross-endorsement of Samuel Fredman's Supreme Court seat.

The record of Judge Colabella's handling of the Wolstencroft case provides proof positive for the Ninth Judicial Committee's position that justice will not be done in our Courts until party bosses can no longer control judicial decision-making.

Gannett is an accessory to the crimes against the electorate that have taken place, with impunity, in this judicial District.

nom DLS

(S)

The time is overdue for honest reporting--as it is for a change
in the process by which judges are chosen.

Doris L. Sassower

DORIS L. SASSOWER

Doris