

New York Law Journal

SERVING THE BENCH AND BAR SINCE 1838

October 18, 1989

LETTERS

To The Editor

Retort to Flummery

I cannot recall when I last read a more distorted piece of cynicism than that which Justice David Saxe entitled, "Flummery" in his Oct. 3 article. Apparently, in light of Justice Saxe's impression that attorneys are disingenuous by nature, we must now avoid uttering respectful admiration of the work of presiding judge for fear that we may be soundly and publicly upbraided for that which is perceived as "rhetorical flourish" by a holier-than-thou Chief of the Court.

Fortunately, since my firm's practice is limited to Long Island, we have not found that judges are bent on pummeling us for politely recognizing thoughtful decision-making. Ironically, Justice Saxe, who apparently submits for publication in the Law Journal anything short of his laundry list, feel comfortable assailing attorneys when they opt to cite one of his many published decisions. Thankfully, in most instances, counsel and the court may exchange legitimate and sincere appreciation of each other's role and work without being vilified in the presence of either a jury or a client in the process. Hopefully, judges will continue to be more inclined to invoke courtesy in the courtroom rather than be poised to attack as Justice Saxe seems to urge.

Peter J. Galasso
Garden City, N.Y.