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The View From Here

## DeAngelis for judge: sickening

By Carl Strock

When I missed work one day last week, on the very day that Rensselaer County District Attorney Patricia DeAngelis announced she would run for judge, some of you suspected the news made me so sick I was unable to discharge my duties, while others, learning that the head of the Army Corps of Engineers is Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, figured I was too busy rebuilding the levees of New Orleans to bother about the mere writing of a newspaper column.

I was flattered, of course, that some would think I might be the military's chief engineer in my spare time, between city council meetings, but it's not so. The lieutenant general is an imposter whom I have advised in the past to knock it off, though without result, so now I am considering my options with regard to him.

The first suspicion is closer to the truth, though I confess I had other business to attend to that day: The DeAngelis announcement did make me sick, after a fashion. I heard it was coming and "I wanted to puke," to use her own words, employed on another occasion

That other occasion was the trial of Tom Levandowski, one-time police chief of Cambridge, Washington County, who was accused of repeatedly raping a young girl in his home in Hoosick, with the assistance of his wife – a most sensational case, of the sort that DeAngelis made her reputation on.

Summing up the jury in that trial, back in 2002, DeAngelis noted that Mrs. Levandowski gazed at her husband lovingly during the trial: "It looked like they were a couple of newlyweds," she sneered. "I wanted to puke."

Which pretty much tells you how she conducts herself in a courtroom, and never mind that Levandowski case, which she cited in her campaign literature for district attorney after getting him sent away for 50 years, went up in smoke. The Court of Appeals threw most of it out because of her misconduct, and she declined to pursue what remained of the felony charges.

So I sort of did want to puke when it became clear that the newly created judgeship in Rensselaer County probably was designed for her, as suspected. A plub from the Republican establishment, headed by Sen. Joe Bruno.

I won't get into the Jack Carroll case, which I've written about enough – how she argued to a jury that his denials of sexually abusing a young girl were actually "admissions by denial," how she presented a deceptive medical report, how she put on the stand a cop who flat-out lied, how she careened around the courtroom like an avenging angel.

A frightening performance that resulted in Jack Carroll being sentenced to 10 to 20 years, when he might have walked free by pleading guilty to a misdemeanor.

There is something in the world of law known as “judicial temperament,” which I can’t defined precisely, but if anyone doesn’t have it, it’s Patricia DeAngelis, from what I’ve seen.

But she continues to rise and be honored, despite rebukes and reversals.

Winner of the 2004 Outstanding Young Alumni Award from Albany Law School.

Woman in the News, 2005, from the Women’s Press Club of New York State.

And soon, we must expect, judge of state Surpreme Court, Rensselaer County, presiding over the very kind of trials that she has, as prosecutor, so demeaned. Can you blame me for wanting to puke?

*The View From Here presents Carl Strock’s personal commentary and appears on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Strock can be reached at 395-3085. The opinions of the newspaper appear in editorials on the Opinion Page every day.*