

Unfit to Sit

I HEARTILY ENDORSE the inclusion of Laura Blackburne in Dale Van Atta's listing of "America's Worst Judges." This woman is a disgrace to the New York Judiciary. I would like, however, to clarify one point. When Judge Blackburne decided to help criminal Derek Sterling escape the courthouse, the story says "a Court Officer took Sterling out a rear door." The Court Officer was outraged by Blackburne's actions, but she threatened him with contempt of court citations if he didn't comply. The Officers in the courtroom informed Detective Devlin of the Judge's decision, and gave him a "heads up" as to where Sterling was being taken.

The Court Officers, with our Association's approval, testified before the Commission on Judicial Conduct regarding her actions.

JOHN MCKILLOP, President,
New York State Supreme Court Officers Association,
New York, New York