

# Judicial watchdog weak

In response to the article, "Ethics charges filed against judge accused of molestation," I find The Associated Press giving unwarranted credibility to the efficiency of the Judicial Conduct Board.

The article leads one to believe the JCB preemptively acted in the matter of Monroe County Judge Mark Pazuhanich and gives the public a false sense of security that the JCB is eternally vigilant over the Pennsylvania judiciary.

In reality the JCB rarely finds fault with any judge beyond the level of district magistrates. In every instance that a higher court judge seriously was investigated by the JCB, it was only after the errant judge was exposed through the news media usually for charges of driving under the influence.

Historically the JCB refuses to take disciplinary actions against judges where the complaints allege egregious judicial corruption or a clear malfeasance of office.

Statistics show that less than 1 percent of the complaints filed against judges result in any disciplinary action by the JCB. Citizens who have filed a complaint against a judge can attest that the complaints are swept under the rug wholesale by the JCB via a three-sentence form letter of dismissal.

In truth, the JCB only got involved in the Pazuhanich case after Sen. Robert Mellow applied extreme political pressure to remove Pazuhanich from his office. Reinforcing that political pressure Rep. Kelly Lewis had explored the constitutional provision to impeach judges.

Unfortunately the Legislature's constitutional checks and balances over to the judicial branch has followed the way of the dinosaur to extinction. As a result the judicial systems delegated self-policing policies and ultimate cover-ups has paved the way for the judiciary to become the most powerful and tyrannical branch of government.

**Robert G. Kearns Jr.**  
**Hollidaysburg**