My everything,' says judge

Jackie Miner shares spotlight

ALBANY - Judge Roger Miner's closest adviser and leading advocate - his wife Jacqueline - shared the limelight and the credit Saturday as her husband was sworn in as circuit judge.

Speaker after speaker referred to her behind-the-scenes role in her husband's climb up the judicial ladder and his widespread acclaim.

Judge Miner himself said: "She has made many sacrifices for me, and it is because of her that I am here...I can say no less of her than the man who appointed me to this position said of his wife: 'She's my everything.'"

While no one disputes Judge Miner's qualifications, the political connections she has developed throughout New York and in Washington have helped facilitate his ascension to higher office.

"She is a woman of formidable talents, having pursued several successful careers," Judge Miner said in his speech. "Although I am constrained to avert my eyes from such things, I am given to understand that her political talents are especially formidable."

In a reference to her tenacity that drew chuckles from the audience, Senator Alfonse D'Amato joked that the appointment attested not only to Judge Miner's stature but also to "the fact that no one wants Jackie Miner to be annoyed."

Another speaker praised her for her performance as "wife, companion, and mentor. Your faith and confidence and support of Roger Miner has been superb."

A native of Mt. Vernon, the former Jacqueline Mariani holds a master's degree in history and political science from Albany's College of St. Rose.

She has worked on the New York presidential campaigns of Richard Nixon, Barry Goldwater, John Connally, and Ronald Reagan.

In 1982, she mounted an unsuccessful bid for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate seat held by Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Having traveled in and done research on Central America, she is on a special White House advisory committee on that region.

When asked Sunday what her thoughts had been as she held the Bible on which Judge Miner took the oath, her answer, characteristically, was more about her husband than herself.

"I was just extremely proud to be his wife," she said. "He's just a talented man and I expect to see him on the Supreme Court of the United States. I think he's the most talented attorney in the country and I think he belongs there."