PUBLIC STATEMENT

Every candidate for judicial office in Louisiana must campaign in accordance with the precepts contained in Canon 7 of the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct. The Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee (“the Committee”) is authorized by the Louisiana Supreme Court to review and investigate complaints which allege violations of certain provisions of Canon 7. Although Committee deliberations are and remain confidential, once a public statement has been issued or a complaint has been dismissed, the complaint and response are matters of public record and may be requested through the Court’s Community Relations division.

The Committee has received a complaint which alleges that Judge Jeff Cox, a candidate for the Second District, Division C, of the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, violated Canon 7A(9) of the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct. Canon 7A(9) provides that a judge or judicial candidate shall not “knowingly make, or cause to be made, a false statement concerning the identity, qualifications, present position, or other fact concerning the candidate or an opponent.” The complaint concerns a mailer that was sent out on behalf of Judge Cox by his campaign committee. The mailer states, “…Judge Cox has ruled on over 30,000 cases and 99 percent of those decisions stand.” The Committee believes this statement violates Canon 7A(9) to the extent
that it implies that Judge Cox has made over 30,000 appealable rulings which have been reviewed and upheld by a higher court.

Marta-Ann Schnabel, Chair
Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee