



Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee

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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 is authorized by the Louisiana Supreme Court to review and investigate complaints which allege violations of certain provisions of Canon 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Although Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee deliberations are 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 department.

The Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee has received a complaint which alleges that Judge James "Jimmy" Kuhn, a candidate for the First District of the Louisiana Supreme Court, violated Canon 7B(1)(d)(ii) of the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct. Canon 7B(1)(d)(ii) provides that judges and judicial candidates 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, in part, a television advertisement aired on behalf of Judge Kuhn by his campaign committee. The television advertisement states that Judge Kuhn's opponent, Judge Greg Guidry, has been "raising money on official court stationery against the canon of ethics" when, in fact, there is no indication that Judge Guidry personally solicited campaign funds. Personal solicitation of campaign funds by judicial candidates is prohibited by the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Committee believes that this statement from Judge Kuhn's television advertisement is in violation of Canon 7B(1)(d)(ii).

Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee
Harry S. Hardin, III, Chair