



Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee

400 ROYAL STREET
SUITE 1190

New Orleans, Louisiana

70130-8101

oversight-staff@lasc.org

TELEPHONE (504) 310-2550
FAX (504) 310-2587

DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2018
CONTACT: TRINA VINCENT
504.310.2590

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 Sharon Marchman, a candidate for the First District, Election Section 2A 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 assertions by Judge Marchman and her campaign that Judge James “Jimbo” Stephens is a member of the same political party as Senator Bernie Sanders. The Committee deems this statement to be a violation of Canon 7A(9). While Judge Marchman may properly inform the public about Judge Stephens’ party affiliation, the statement that a member

of the Louisiana Independent Party is a member of Bernie Sanders' party is false and misleads the public.

Judge Stephens is registered with the Louisiana "Independent Party," while Sen. Sanders designates himself as an "Independent" with "no party" affiliation. In Louisiana, the "Independent Party" is a recognized political party. In Sen. Sanders' state, Vermont, the designation of "Independent" means that the candidate has no party affiliation. The Committee believes that statements from Judge Marchman connecting Sen. Sanders and Judge Stephens to the same political party violate Canon 7A(9).



Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee
Marta-Ann Schnabel, Chair