



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 (“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 Committee believes the mailer misrepresents the facts of *State v. Montgomery*, 2014-0902 (La. 5/21/14), 139 So. 3d 1030 in violation of Canon 7A(9).

State v. Montgomery, supra, involved the appropriate bail amount for a defendant arrested for aggravated rape. The mailer at issue identifies the defendant as a “suspected

murderer” and charges that Judge Cox’s opponent, Judge Jay Caraway, “agreed to reverse the district court bond decision, allowing [the defendant] to go free.”

According to documentation submitted to the Committee with the complaint and on behalf of Judge Cox, the defendant was not indicted for principal manslaughter until May 15, 2014. Judge Caraway, as a member of a three judge panel of the 2nd Circuit, reduced the defendant’s bail obligation on the charge of aggravated rape on April 11, 2014, prior to the indictment for principal manslaughter. The bail obligation was reduced from \$500,000 to \$100,000 by the three judge panel, not eliminated.



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Marta-Ann Schnabel, Chair