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 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 Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee has received a complaint alleging that Nakisha Ervin-Knott, a candidate for a judgeship in Orleans Civil District Court, violated Canon 7B(1)(d)(ii) of the 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 a TV, Youtube and Facebook advertisement aired on behalf of Ms. Ervin-Knott by her campaign committee. The advertisement displays an image of one of her opponents, Kris Kiefer, and describes him as "drunk." Ms. Ervin-Knott has been unable to produce any proof of this assertion and relies solely on two arrests for driving while intoxicated

which occurred in 1987 and 1988, neither of which resulted in a conviction. The Committee believes that Kiefer's complaint against Ms. Ervin-Knott has merit and that this advertisement violates Canon 7B(1)(d)(ii).

Harry S Hardin III

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