



# Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee

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DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2012  
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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. 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 alleging that Joel Porter, a candidate for a judgeship in Baton Rouge City Court, violated 7A(2) of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Canon 7A(2) provides that judges and judicial candidates shall not "publicly endorse or publicly oppose another candidate for public office." The complaint concerns a campaign flyer in the form of a "sample ballot," which the complaint alleges was prepared by Mr. Porter's campaign and personally distributed by Mr. Porter. Mr. Porter does not deny that allegation. One side of the flyer displays the photos of several judicial candidates, including Mr. Porter, and the seats for which they are running, along with the following text: "The Democrats' Choice for Judge" and "OFFICIAL BALLOT – VOTE ENTIRE TICKET – Nov 6, 2012." On the other side of the flyer is a picture of President Obama, with the caption "YOUR VOTE COUNTS!" The

Committee believes that the production and distribution of this flyer by Mr. Porter and/or his campaign committee constitutes the public endorsement of another candidate for public office and therefore violates Canon 7A(2).

*Harry S Hardin* 

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