



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. 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 against Alfred Williams, a candidate for Division J of the 19th Judicial District Court, filed by one his opponents, the incumbent Judge Trudy White. The complaint concerns a mailer distributed by Williams' campaign. On the back of the mailer is written "Louisiana has only one conservative black female Republican Judge: Trudy White." White is not running as a Republican in this election, however, but is, in fact, running as a Democrat. Although the fine print on the mailer references the source of this information as a web article entitled <http://louisianaconservative.com/the-most-courageous-woman-in-louisiana/>, the mailer does not indicate that the article is almost two years old and concerns a prior race in which White ran as a Republican. While Williams is certainly permitted to inform the public about White's previous party affiliation and/or criticize White's decision to switch parties, the statement on the mailer is falsely presented as describing White's current party affiliation.

The Committee therefore believes that the distribution of this campaign mailer by Williams violates Canon 7A(9), which 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.”

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marta-Ann Schnabel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee
Marta-Ann Schnabel, Chair