



February 20, 2008

Tom Basting
State Bar of Wisconsin
5302 Eastpark Blvd
Madison, WI 53718

Dear Mr. Basting;

This morning I had the unfortunate experience to learn more about the inner workings and the agenda of the Wisconsin Judicial Campaign Integrity Committee (WJCIC). What I learned in a series of now-public e-mail exchanges among committee members is that the WJCIC is clearly not capable of acting in a fair and impartial manner when considering the current race for the Supreme Court.

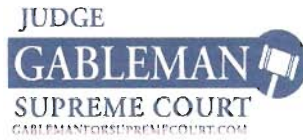
In a good-faith effort to come to an agreement with you, I personally expressed my concerns regarding the subjectivity of the committee's rules and mission. I also expressed concern with the philosophical bent of the committee and the troubling fact that a significant donor to Louis Butler's campaign is a member. However, an examination of a series of e-mails obtained through an open records request and made public today not only reinforces my concern that the WJCIC is biased, but it is now plainly obvious that the committee is purposefully hostile to Judge Gableman.

Upon reading communications laced with references to Gableman campaign staff and others as "skunk", "demon", "mercenaries", any reasonable person would believe these personal attacks occurred on a school playground -- not among adult professionals charged with representing the State Bar of Wisconsin.

But perhaps the most shocking revelation is the fact committee members devised detailed campaign advice for incumbent Louis Butler *and* encouraged committee members to reach out to the Butler campaign to share the advice. A committee member wrote,

"This seems to me to be a Butler campaign problem/opportunity. Surely they are familiar with the enemies strategy. If not, someone can refer them to something that happened in 1978 when a candidate was attacked by outsiders and used that to question the motives and even the fact of their participation. Butler can talk about the professors oversimplifications and about the megaphone supplied by WMC and take the boost that gives him without the mentioning his opponent."

The race for the Wisconsin Supreme Court is about two qualified candidates who offer voters a clear choice in terms of philosophy and background. I've always believed the Wisconsin voters are smart enough to make a determination in this race without a self-appointed committee acting as arbiter of right and wrong.



These emails may only be the tip of the proverbial iceberg in terms of the committee's support for Justice Butler and opposition to Judge Gableman's campaign. We have no way of knowing what was said in other emails, or phone conversation or meetings.

It is obvious that WJCIC should stand down from any participation in the current Supreme Court race. I hope you will publically confirm that is the case today.

The Gableman campaign is genuinely disappointed in the Committee's actions.

Sincerely,

Darrin Schmitz
Gableman for Supreme Court