

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JUDGE RANDY KOSCHNICK CHALLENGES CONSTITUTIONALITY OF IMPARTIAL
JUSTICE BILL

Circuit Court Judge Randy Koschnick filed a sweeping Federal Court challenge today to the State's public financing scheme in Wisconsin Supreme Court campaigns. The lawsuit asserts that the entire Impartial Justice Bill violates the Free Speech and Equal Protection provisions of the Constitution. It names the Governor Doyle, the Government Accountability Board and the State Treasurer as Defendants.

As Judge Koschnick noted in filing the challenge, "There is no more basic and important right than the right of Wisconsin citizens to participate in vigorous debate in electing members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Free speech protects all of us from government itself, and so there are few threats more frightening to our future than giving power to unelected Wisconsin bureaucrats and Boards to, as provided in this Bill, control that speech."

According to the lawsuit, the Impartial Justice Bill's provisions that provide public funds to Supreme Court candidates that equal or exceed private funds of challengers creates government favored candidates in direct violation of the First

Amendment. In addition, the provisions that now severely limit the amounts individuals and political action committees can give, even below other Statewide offices, unconstitutionally favors certain candidates and limits the rights of candidates and the public to participate.

Counsel for Judge Koshnick, Jim Troupis, noted that Courts around the country have repeatedly held similar statutes invalid. "That the State passed and intends to enforce this obviously unconstitutional legislation is certainly unfortunate. The United States Supreme Court has held virtually identical schemes invalid."

In addition to Mr. Troupis, Judge Koshnick is also represented by the Center for Competitive Politics of Alexandria, Virginia.

Judge Koshnick is a sitting Circuit Court Judge in Jefferson County and ran unsuccessfully in 2009 for the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

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For Additional Information

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