

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2012 4:43 PM
To: 'Arthur Spiegel'
Cc: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: INQ -Judicial Candidates

Mr. Spiegel,

The issue you raise is not within the jurisdiction of the County Ethics Commission. The proper forum for that issue lies with the State of Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission in Tallahassee. In the past I have referred issue to them involving judicial campaigns and have been satisfied with the results. If they find violations of the judicial canons or of state law, they will recommend penalties which are ultimately reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court.

We do enforce the County Fair Campaign Practices Ordinances, which judges may sign and voluntarily submit to. That ordinance involves matters such as unfair or untruthful attacks involving personal issues or tactics with ethnic/racial overtones.

Joe Centorino
Executive Director and General Counsel

From: Arthur Spiegel [<mailto:arthurspiegel@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 4:18 PM
To: Ethics (COE)
Subject: Potential Ethics Complaint

Dear Mr. Centorino:

If it was proved that a judicial candidate committed multiple violations of the ethical prohibitions discussed in Florida Supreme Court JEAC opinions 06-21, 12-18 and 12-21 by accepting and publicizing endorsements of non-judicial, elected partisan officials who were simultaneously running for elective office with active opposition, what kind of sanctions could be imposed upon the violator? Is it possible the election of of the violator could be overturned? Or is this "slap-on-the-wrist" territory? Somewhere in-between?

Thank you for your time and the courtesy of a reply.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Spiegel