

**DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE
CAMPAIGN CONDUCT OF THE SITTING JUDGES OF
BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT BECKMAN**

Chair

Linda Pierson

September 8, 2010

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SUMMARY

A complaint filed with the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee by Baltimore County Circuit Court Judge candidate T. Scott Beckman alleges that an agent for the Baltimore County Sitting Judges Slate campaign made false claims about Beckman on the Internet social networking site Facebook. The complaint was amended to also include allegedly false claims made on the website scottbeckmantherealstory.com, a site created for and endorsed by the Baltimore County Sitting Judges Slate. The complaint alleges the Sitting Judges campaign thereby violated MDJCCC's Standards for Conduct of Contested Judicial Elections.

Subsequently, in their response, the Sitting Judges lodged their own complaints about Mr. Beckman's campaign.

The Committee finds that both the Sitting Judges and Mr. Beckman have violated MDJCCC's Standard III: "Campaign Communications – Truthfulness and Dignity."

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

A. BACKGROUND

The Maryland Campaign Conduct Committee is a diverse, representative bi-partisan group of Marylanders, all volunteers, committed to promoting and maintaining respect for the uniqueness of the judicial function. It was formed at the suggestion of Chief Judge Robert A. Bell of the Court of Appeals of Maryland. Its chair is the former president of the League of Women Voters of Maryland and member of the Attorney Grievance Committee Linda Pierson. Maryland is one of at least 25 states that have created such committees.

MDJCCC has established Standards for the Conduct of Judicial Elections. It has invited all judicial candidates – incumbents and challengers alike – to agree to abide by those Standards in their campaigns.¹ It will receive and attempt to resolve complaints alleging violations of those Standards. It has no official power to censure or sanction violations of those Standards. MDJCCC's commitment is to promote public education about the role of judges and to assist voters in obtaining accurate and relevant information about judicial contests.

Several key propositions have guided MDJCCC's work: Judicial elections are different from other political contests. Candidates for judicial office should promote the impartial performance of their judicial duties according to the law and to the facts that are developed in court. Respect for the rule of law – of which judges should be exemplars – requires that judicial candidates conduct themselves with the dignity and integrity that the public has a right to expect of those who hold, or aspire to hold, judicial office.²

B. THE COMMITTEE'S INQUIRY

On August 19, 2010, the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee received an email complaint from judicial candidate T. Scott Beckman regarding the

¹ In their response to the complaint of candidate Beckman, the Sitting Judges note that Mr. Beckman did not sign the candidate agreement form agreeing to abide by the Committee's Standards. The Committee has never conditioned its authority to consider and resolve complaints against a judicial candidate on whether the candidate agreed to abide by the Standards adopted by the Committee. The Standards adopted by MDJCCC are based upon the Code of Judicial Conduct, and that Code places identical restrictions on judicial candidates who are judges and non-judges who are candidates for judicial office.

² A more detailed statement of the background, purpose, program and procedure of the MDJCCC is set forth on its website at www.mdjccc.org.

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

campaign conduct of Judge Jan M. Alexander, Judge Sherrie R. Bailey, Judge S. Ann Brobst and Judge John J. Nagle, III, all incumbent judges of the Baltimore County Circuit Court. The email complaint alleges that Kathy Murphy Blue, a campaign worker for these judges, known hereafter and in their campaign literature and materials as "the Sitting Judges," violated the MDJCCC Standards during the course of online discussions on the social networking site Facebook with another citizen (Niya Martin) about Mr. Beckman's qualifications as a judicial candidate. Campaigns for both the Sitting Judges' Slate and T. Scott Beckman use Facebook in an official capacity in their campaigns. Mr. Beckman's email complaint included a copy of that online discussion, which can be found in Attachment A.

MDJCCC made several attempts to contact Mr. Beckman by email and telephone in order to secure a signed Complaint Form, ultimately leaving at Mr. Beckman's home on August 20, 2010 a letter containing a blank form and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. On August 26, MDJCCC received a signed Complaint Form from Mr. Beckman, which can be found in Attachment B, and began its inquiry. Also on August 26, in an email, Mr. Beckman asked to amend his complaint to include content on a website set up by the Sitting Judges known as scottbeckmantherealstory.com (the "Real Story Website"), which Mr. Beckman alleges also violates the MDJCCC Standards (Attachment C). After receiving Mr. Beckman's complaint, Committee Chair Linda Pierson appointed a panel of Committee members consisting of Professor Gilbert Holmes and Christopher West to conduct an inquiry. During a conference call on August 27, 2010, the Chair noted

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

that Mr. Beckman's formal complaint was received just one week before early voting commenced on a primary election scheduled for September 14, 2010, thus making it unlikely that the Committee would be able to complete its work and issue a decision prior to the beginning of the early voting.

On August 27, 2010, copies of the complaint and accompanying documentation were mailed to Mr. Andrew Alperstein, campaign director of the Sitting Judges' campaign, and to all four Sitting Judges. On August 30, 2010, MDJCCC asked Mr. Beckman to provide a more specific listing of the comments by Ms. Blue and the content of the Real Story Website that he contends violate the Standards. MDJCCC requested a response from him within 24 hours. The following day, Mr. Beckman provided the particulars sought, which can be found in Attachment D. Later on August 31, 2010, MDJCCC provided the particulars to the Sitting Judges. The Sitting Judges provided MDJCCC with a lengthy letter on Friday, September 3, 2010, which is at Attachment E.

The response of the Sitting Judges also levels its own complaints about Mr. Beckman's campaign, attaching copies of pages from the Facebook page of "Beckman for Judge" which the Sitting Judges claim violate MDJCCC's Standards. Although the Sitting Judges have not filed a formal Complaint Form, we believe that the complaints about Mr. Beckman's campaign, presented in a formal response to MDJCCC on stationary of the Sitting Judges campaign, are sufficient to constitute a cognizable complaint and will address them in this opinion.

C. INTRODUCTION TO OUR ANALYSIS

In this case, we are presented with cross complaints which solely relate to postings on the Internet by the two campaigns. Reviewing the rival postings of the two campaigns, it seems clear to us that each campaign seems to feel that different, more lax standards of propriety should apply to the Internet. The postings of each campaign contain material that would clearly be recognized as inflammatory and sensational if uttered in front of an audience of citizens in a public forum.

In our view, there is no difference between communicating via the Internet to an audience of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of citizens hunched over their computer screens, on the one hand, and communicating to an audience of dozens, perhaps hundreds, of citizens in an auditorium on the other hand. The same rules govern in both situations. We do not accept the proposition that there should be one standard of propriety governing Internet postings and another standard of propriety governing civic discourse in front of live audiences.

D. THE COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

Both of the cross complaints implicate Standard III of MDJCCC's Standards for the Conduct of Contested Judicial Elections. Standard III is entitled "Campaign Communications – Truthfulness and Dignity." Standard III states:

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

A candidate for judicial office shall not knowingly make a false or misleading representation about his or her own qualifications, record or experience, or those of any other judicial candidate. A candidate shall communicate in a dignified manner and shall refrain from making inflammatory, sensational or abusive statements.

A candidate shall not authorize or encourage such communication by others and shall promptly and publicly disavow such communication should it be made by individuals or organizations that act in cooperation or coordination with the candidate's campaign.

1. KATHY BLUE'S COMMENTS ON FACEBOOK:

Mr. Beckman's particular complaints about Ms. Blue's postings during the course of her Facebook dialogue with Ms. Martin are as follows:

a. Ms. Blue made numerous *ad hominem* attacks on Beckman, claiming that he "lacks experience, integrity, honesty and judicial temperament", and further stating that "I value hard work, integrity, honesty, merit, practical experience and nonpartisanship in all judicial candidates ...[:] Beckman has none of these." In addition, Ms. Blue stated, "He's a fraud, trust me." She also wrote in her postings that Mr. Beckman "has an inappropriate interest in sexually explicit material."

b. Ms. Blue sought to derogate Mr. Beckman by criticizing the fact that his legal practice has included the representation of criminal defendants, stating that Mr. Beckman "spent his short legal career defending violent and nonviolent predators (juvenile and adult) and arguing to keep them out of detention/jail

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

and on the streets”.

In their response to Mr. Beckman’s charges, the Sitting Judges strenuously argue that in making the postings recounted above, Ms. Blue was not speaking for the Sitting Judges campaign but rather was posting in her personal capacity.

The Sitting Judges admit that Ms. Blue is a devoted supporter of their campaign and has been a campaign volunteer since December, 2009. She assists in managing the Judges’ calendar of events. Further, the Sitting Judges have disclosed that Ms. Blue “often posts updates on the Judges’ Facebook page relating to their attendance at events or endorsements.” The Sitting Judges have also acknowledged that Ms. Blue made a posting on the Facebook page of “Northeast Baltimore County for Bob Ehrlich” which was authorized by the Sitting Judges. Nonetheless, the Sitting Judges argue that the Facebook postings by Ms. Blue that are the subject of Mr. Beckman’s complaint were not authorized by their campaign.

The Sitting Judges contend that the postings by Ms. Blue that have been authorized by their campaign can be identified by the fact that they contain a campaign authority line reading as follows: “[By authority: Baltimore County Sitting Judges Slate, Eileen G. Thompson, Treasurer].” They state that the postings that Ms. Blue has made on their behalf and with their authority on the campaign’s Facebook page all bear the authority line. They state that the postings that Ms. Blue made on the “Northeast Baltimore County for Bob Ehrlich” Facebook page also bear the authority line and therefore are authorized campaign postings. They further state

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

that because the postings made by Ms. Blue in her Facebook dialogue with Ms. Martin did not bear the official authority line, Ms. Blue was merely posting as a private citizen, not in her capacity as a representative of the Sitting Judges campaign.

The difficulty that we have with this reasoning is that most voters are not sophisticated enough to detect the difference between a posting by Ms. Blue about the campaign which concludes with an authority line and a posting by Ms. Blue about the campaign which does not conclude with an authority line. Especially in the case of the Internet dialogue between Ms. Blue and Ms. Martin, none of the postings by Ms. Blue contained an authority line, and therefore there was no way for Ms. Martin or anyone else reading the postings to form a reasonable conclusion that the postings by Ms. Blue should be distinguished by postings that she was making on other Facebook pages using an official authority line.

We believe that when the Sitting Judges campaign authorized Ms. Blue to make Internet postings on behalf of their campaign, it thereby made her the agent of the campaign with the apparent authority to post on the Internet on behalf of the campaign. Imbued as she was with the apparent authority to make Internet postings on behalf of the campaign, the campaign is responsible for her postings. This would have been a harder case if Ms. Blue's postings had contained a disclaimer that she was speaking as a private person and not on behalf of the Sitting Judges campaign, but no such disclaimer appeared in any of the postings that are the subject of Mr. Beckman's complaint.

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

The Commentary to Standard III states that “the candidate must be aware of, and monitor, communications from those affiliated with his or her campaign.” Especially in the situation presented here, in which Ms. Blue was authorized by the Sitting Judges to make internet postings on their behalf, the Sitting Judges were responsible for monitoring her internet postings.

As quoted above, Standard III states that “a candidate shall communicate in a dignified manner and shall refrain from making inflammatory, emotional or abusive statements.” Ms. Blue’s *ad hominem* attacks on Mr. Beckman, recited above, are perfect illustrations of the sort of undignified, inflammatory, emotional and abusive statements that Standard III was intended to prevent. The MDJCCC commentary to Standard III explicitly states, “Neither should a judicial candidate express an opinion about his or her opponent’s record or any other campaign issue without providing a reasonable factual basis for that opinion.” If Ms. Blue had provided specific facts in her postings to substantiate her *ad hominem* attacks on Mr. Beckman, it is conceivable that her attacks might have complied with Standard III, but the bald use of personal invective is unacceptable and a violation of Standard III.

Ms. Blue’s attack on Mr. Beckman’s legal practice is another clear violation of Standard III. The MDJCCC commentary to Standard III contains the following example: “Judge Smith is opposed in the election by an experienced public defender, Lawyer Jones. Judge Smith’s campaign literature says that Jones should not be elected because she has represented convicted murderers, armed robbers and rapists. Judge Smith’s literature is improper because it brings into disrepute the

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

representation of criminal defendants, an essential function of the criminal justice system." Ms. Blue's attack on Mr. Beckman because he has "defend[ed] violent and nonviolent predators (juvenile and adult) and argu[ed] to keep them out of detention/jail and on the streets" is squarely on point with this example.

Even if the Sitting Judges could not be charged with a violation of Standard III by the mere fact that Ms. Blue made her postings on the Internet, once the Sitting Judges became aware of Ms. Blue's improper postings, the Sitting Judges violated Standard III by failing to immediately publicly disavow the postings. As Standard III states, "A candidate shall ... publicly disavow such [improper] communication should it be made by individuals ... that act in cooperation or coordination with the candidate's campaign."

2. SCOTTBECKMANTHEREALSTORY.COM:

The website called scottbeckmantherealstory.com was launched on August 25, 2010 and included on the front page: "By authority: Baltimore County Sitting Judges Slate, Eileen G. Thompson, Treasurer" and "Warning: Sexually explicit material not suitable for children under the age of 18."

Mr. Beckman's particular complaints about the Real Story Website are as follows:

a. On a page entitled, "No Experience," the following statement appears: "According to the Maryland State Court Website, Beckman has NEVER even tried a single jury trial as an attorney."

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

b. “There are a host of other allegations made against me on the website that are out of order too. My comments are taken totally out of context and they are portraying me as some sort of deviant, sexist, corrupt, unqualified attorney.” The Real Story Website contains a number of pages that seem to be designed to present Mr. Beckman in these ways. Pages entitled “Above The Law” and “No Ethics” contain reproductions of postings from Mr. Beckman’s Facebook page that might lead viewers to believe that he is corrupt and/or unqualified. Pages entitled “College Dorms,” “Demeaning to Women,” “Hottest Clerks” and “Wanting to ‘Do’ Women” also contain reproductions from Mr. Beckman’s Facebook page that might lead viewers to believe that he is sexist.

In their response to Mr. Beckman’s charges, the Sitting Judges strongly argue that Mr. Beckman is not fit to serve on the judiciary, and they stress that the proof that they are offering on the Real Story Website is Mr. Beckman’s own words from his Facebook pages.

Unlike in the case of Ms. Blue’s unsubstantiated *ad hominem* attacks on Mr. Beckman, in the case of the Real Story Website, the Sitting Judges have presented Mr. Beckman’s own postings from his Facebook pages so the voters can draw their own conclusions about Mr. Beckman. For this reason, we are not persuaded that the Real Story Website can be criticized for making bald *ad hominem* attacks on Mr. Beckman.

Standard III, however, not only proscribes *ad hominem* attacks divorced from a reasonable factual basis for the opinion; it also requires candidates to

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

“communicate in a dignified manner” and refrain from making “inflammatory, sensational or abusive statements.” In the case of the Real Story Website, the material presented by the Sitting Judges is so sensational and inflammatory that they themselves have branded their website with warnings stating: **“Warning: Sexually explicit material not suitable for children under the age of 18.”** Indeed, included on the Real Story Website among the reproductions of Mr. Beckman’s postings from his Facebook pages are photographs of scantily clad women and disgusting and demeaning references to women.

The Sitting Judges claim that the images on their website are Mr. Beckman’s images and that the demeaning references to women are word-for-word lifted from Mr. Beckman’s Facebook pages. This may be true, but in re-publishing this material, the Sitting Judges have only circulated this offensive material to a wider audience. If the Sitting Judges were to attend a public forum on the judicial election in Baltimore County and were to pass around Mr. Beckman’s smutty photographs and were to read Mr. Beckman’s crude jokes demeaning to women, we would have no difficulty in finding them guilty of failing to “communicate in a dignified manner” and of making “inflammatory, sensational and abusive statements.” As we noted earlier, we find no difference between communicating over the Internet and communicating in person. There is no place in a judicial campaign for crude and disgusting images or language.

The fact that Mr. Beckman’s Facebook pages contains the very images and crude jokes on the Real Story Website is no excuse. It would have been appropriate

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

for the Sitting Judges to direct the voters to Mr. Beckman's Facebook pages. It would also have been appropriate for the Sitting Judges to describe Mr. Beckman's postings using slightly euphemistic language, communicating the crude nature of Mr. Beckman's Internet postings without rebroadcasting the actual offensive photos and language that Mr. Beckman used.³ The use by the Sitting Judges of Mr. Beckman's photographs and crude jokes constitutes a violation of Standard III.

There is another respect in which the Real Story Website violates Standard III. It contains a page stating, "According to the Maryland State Court Website, Beckman has NEVER even tried a single jury trial as an attorney." This statement appears to be inaccurate. Mr. Beckman asserts that he has tried jury trials. The Maryland State Court Website contains a listing of Mr. Beckman's cases that seems to indicate that two of Mr. Beckman's cases were jury trials. In addition, in one of the postings by Ms. Blue that is the subject of Mr. Beckman's complaint, she writes that Mr. Beckman "has very little actual jury trial experience", thus suggesting that he has some jury trial experience. In light of these facts, the page on the Real Story Website claiming that he has "NEVER even tried a single jury trial" appears to be intentionally misleading and therefore a violation of Standard III.

³ If the Sitting Judges had made euphemistic references to Mr. Beckman's Facebook postings and Mr. Beckman had either branded the references as untrue or had challenged the Sitting Judges to produce evidence to substantiate their accusations, a different situation would be presented in which the Sitting Judges might have been justified in making the evidence available for viewing by the public. That did not happen in this case.

3. THE COMPLAINT AGAINST MR. BECKMAN

The Sitting Judges have lodged their own complaints about Mr. Beckman and have provided pages from Internet sites containing postings by Mr. Beckman to substantiate their complaint. The particulars of their complaint are as follows:

a. Mr. Beckman publicly accused a Baltimore County judge (not one of the Sitting Judges) of having a sexual relationship with an attorney to whom she is not married. Referring to this relationship, he branded the judges on the Circuit Court for Baltimore County as "scumbags."

b. Mr. Beckman has referred to the Sitting Judges as "O'Malley ... crony judges" and "political cronies."

c. Mr. Beckman has applied a disparaging nickname to one of the judges on the Baltimore County Circuit Court.

d. Mr. Beckman stated, "There are currently judges sitting in Baltimore County with all types of issues - adultery, drug use, drinking problems, DWI arrests...."

The unsubstantiated *ad hominem* attacks by Mr. Beckman on the entire Baltimore County judiciary are a clear violation of Standard III. The fact that all four of the Sitting Judges were appointed to the bench by Governor Martin O'Malley is no basis for making the charge that the Governor's appointees are "political cronies," and therefore that charge as well constitutes a violation of Standard III. The use of derogatory nicknames to deride candidates for judicial office is unacceptable and violates Standard III. The allegation that there are judges on the Baltimore County

bench with adultery, drug use, drinking and DWI problems without providing any relevant factual substantiating information is unacceptable and certainly violates Standard III.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on the above analysis, the Committee finds that both the Sitting Judges and Mr. Beckman have violated Standard III: "Campaign Communications -- Truthfulness and Dignity" with respect to the Internet communications described. If either the Sitting Judges or Mr. Beckman fail to remove all offending material from the Internet, it will be considered a continuing violation of Standard III.

Both Mr. Beckman and the Sitting Judges have attempted to avoid criticism for Internet postings by claiming they were not intended for viewing by the public or they were not relevant to the campaign. In the case of Ms. Blue's postings on Facebook with Ms. Martin, the Sitting Judges respond that "the exchange between Ms. Blue and Ms. Martin was a 'personal message' exchange between them through Facebook technology." When questioned by reporters about comments attributed to him on Facebook, Mr. Beckman responded, "I might have said those things, but that is not part of my campaign." That such Internet writings are the subject of the instant complaints should dispel thoughts about the privacy or anonymity of any Internet writing, and candidates in future judicial elections would be well-advised to conduct their campaigns accordingly.

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT COMMITTEE, INC.
DECISION REGARDING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SITTING JUDGES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY AND T. SCOTT
BECKMAN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

For the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee,

s

Linda Pierson, Chair

September 8, 2010

This decision is available on the website of the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee at www.mdjccc.org. Copies have been furnished to Mr. Andrew Alperstein on behalf of the Sitting Judges (Judges Alexander, Bailey, Brobst, Nagle) and to the complainant T. Scott Beckman.

ATTACHMENT A

Previous

Next

Move To (Select One)

committee@mdjccc.org <committee@mdjccc.org>

[add to contacts](#)

kthomas@mdjccc.org

Thursday, August 26, 2010 05:37 pm

Fwd: Slander & Inappropriate Comments made in Baltimore County Judicial Race.

 Text version of this message. (15KB)

-----Original Message-----

Tsbeckman@aol.com [mailto:Tsbeckman@aol.com]

Thursday, August 26, 2010 12:06 AM

committee@mdjccc.org

Re: Slander & Inappropriate Comments made in Baltimore County Judicial Race.

Please add the following to my complaint:

The Sitting Judges in Baltimore County have authorized the creation of a website devoted completely to spreading false information about me & attacking my character. They have challenged my integrity, honesty, and my treatment of women. This is clearly outside the lines of conduct expected during a Judicial Campaign.

The website is:

Thank you,

-- T. Scott Beckman

In a message dated 8/19/2010 1:11:45 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, committee@mdjccc.org writes:

Mr. Beckman:

We have received your email regarding Ms. Blue's comments.

Before we can investigate, we will need a signed complaint form from you. I have attached one here, but you can also get one from the Committee's website at www.mdjccc.org.

Thank you.

Karen Thomas
Legal specialist
MDJCCC
410-480-5148

-----Original Message-----

Tsbeckman@aol.com [mailto:Tsbeckman@aol.com]

Wednesday, August 18, 2010 08:25 PM

committee@mdjccc.org

Slander & Inappropriate Comments made in Baltimore County Judicial Race.

Please review the following comments made against me by Kathy Blue, an attorney & employee

working on behalf of The Sitting Judges Slate. They are clearly not the type of comments that are appropriate in a judicial election campaign. She makes personal attacks that are untrue and also uses the classic example of abuse by claiming that "He represented violent offenders!" by virtue of my employment with the Office of the Public Defender.

Her comments are disgusting and unprofessional. Ms. Blue sent these comments to hundreds of my supporters electronically via Facebook. I expect something to be done about them.

Thank you,

T. Scott Beckman

Between and

August 14 at 4:40pm

As a former appointed member of Governor Ehrlich's Judicial Nominating Commission, I can state, without hesitation, that Beckman for Judge who you appear to approve of is the absolute WORST possible CANDIDATE for judge. He lacks experience, integrity, honesty and judicial temperament. He has, without permission and contrary to what he says, tacked his campaign signs and stickers on to Ehrlich's in an effort to make people believe that Ehrlich has endorsed him, which he has not. Do not be fooled by his claims that he will be tough on crime. He is a juvenile level public defender who has spent his short legal career defending violent and nonviolent predators (juvenile and adult) and arguing to keep them out of detention/jail and on the streets. If you really know him (which I suspect you may), you already know this. But if not, hopefully you will check him out beyond facebook. Ask around. The guy is scamming people.



August 14 at 9:22pm

how do you know this and why do you care so much? i've never heard of you.

August 14 at 10:17pm

I am an attorney by trade (although I don't practice anymore) and I deeply and genuinely care what type of individual sits on the bench in judgment of other people day in and day out in complex and not-so-complex civil and criminal matters. That's why I worked on the judicial nominating commission. I value hard work, integrity, honesty, merit, practical experience and nonpartisanship in all judicial candidates. Beckman has none of those, and has very little actual jury trial experience which is a crucial requirement for any Circuit court judge. I proudly support this particular batch of sitting judges (I haven't always supported sitting judges) that Beckman is challenging -- those 4 judges are all outstanding, 3 career prosecutors and a Bar Association President and highest-possible rated lawyer which an impeccable record of legal distinction and community service. I have reviewed each and every word in each of their judicial applications. I am completely aghast at how Beckman is trying to snooker voters into thinking he is something he is not and how he is lying on FB about them and other things. If you think he looks good, please take the time to read

up on him and ask questions. There is an article in the Maryland Daily Record about him and how he recently had a \$60,000 personal judgment entered against him over a Porsche he failed to pay for, and how he acted unprofessionally and immaturely in the courtroom. He also admitted on the record in that case that he didn't understand one of the most basic rules of civil procedure which governed his case. This was a little more than a month ago. There is another article in the Conservative Examiner written by Regina Saltzar who didn't research him beyond his own words on FB-- the comments are the most telling. He's a fraud, trust me. He literally threatened and cussed out a promising Republican candidate a few months ago and has an inappropriate interest in sexually explicit material. I know more about him than I ever wanted to know. Ask him pointed questions. So far, everyone who has and who has come close to exposing him has been defriended. You should also check out his competition, Judges Alexander, Bailey, Brobst & Nagle. They have 100% of all of the endorsements issued in the judges' race, with 85 endorsements from Republican & Democrat elected officials, community leaders and individuals, plus the endorsements of the key organizations - Baltimore County Police, Baltimore City Police, Firefighters, Deputy Sheriffs, Transportation Authority, MSBA, to name a few. Beckman has ZERO. None. He is scamming people. When he posted his signs on Ehrlich's, that was the last straw for me! Ehrlich has not and will not endorse him...you can trust me on that.



August 14 at 10:49pm

i'm so confused. i thought he was a great family guy. i guess i have lots to read on for Sunday. i don't know who to believe, he's a really nice guy from what i know. i looked into his records and nothing stood out to make me think he wouldn't be good for the job. he may not be as experienced as the sitting judges, but he brings a fresh approach and positive attitude. i'll think it over...

August 14 at 11:13pm

I am happy to hear that you do not have a closed mind. He has quite an act. In fact, its so transparent and ingratiating to me that I cannot believe other people buy it. Just so you know, I dont take photos for the judges and I dont run their website. And the person who called him Beck -- please check out Beck Scottman on facebook. Its him. He talks about rim jobs which you may or may not know what they are. Not much of a family man to me. Not between that and the posting of the scantily-clad women. He has other sites like that. I am an information specialist of sorts, that's how I know so much about him. People give me all sorts of information, documents and affidavits on a regular basis which I verify and authenticate. When you perform due diligence on prospective judicial applicants like I do, you know where to look, who to ask and what to file requests for. You should wonder though why he has a closed, friend-only page and also why he has 3 of them, all closed. He has different pages for different types of people. Looks like he is now gunning for the 2nd Amendment types. He asks people to ask him questions, anything at all, but his pages are all closed to people like me and the many others who know the truth. He has 5 group pages, but he deleted me and blocked me. What he wrote about the judges in his most recent post against me is, again, inaccurate and misleading. Check out the biographies of the judges on their page, Baltimore County Sitting

Judges Slate, to really know what each of the judges have done in their careers. You don't know me, but I am not dishonest no matter what he says about me. I also know Chris Cavey.



August 14 at 11:18pm

wow. i'm really taken aback by this. i hope for his children's sake that this isn't true. but what's your interest in this? you must work for someone because i don't care who other people vote for, i just want them to vote for their best candidate. i'd leave the mudslinging to the runners, you don't want to get caught up in any nonsense when you never had anything at stake in the first place, ya know? i'm going to look into him but it's just for a seat on the bench....

August 14 at 11:52pm

I am self-employed. I have 3 primary passions: my family first, helping children develop reading skills and a lifelong love of reading, and ensuring that the judiciary in Baltimore County (where I have resided all my life and intend to remain) is an unblemished as possible.

August 17 at 10:54pm

I see that you have decided to believe Beckman's story and that's fine. I tried. Chief Judge Murphy was not my grandfather by the way. Just so you know, below is the list of people and organizations endorsing the Judges that Beckman has been slandering and libeling for months now. Beckman has zero endorsements and the reasons for that is obvious to everyone on this list below. If you have any interest at all in learning the truth about the judges, I suggest you visit their page. Apparently, the Beck Scottman page was not enough for you in which case you must be a real friend of his and not just a FB friend. While he insists he is an advocate for "troubled kids," he has represented attempted murderers although he hasn't let anyone know that. He has since changed that page, but that's not a problem. This will be my last message to you unless, for some reason, you wish to converse with me further. No one can say I didn't try:

42nd District Republican Club

Baltimore City Fraternal Order of Police Lodge # 3

Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge # 4

Baltimore County Professional Fire Fighters Association, Local 1311

Baltimore County Deputy Sheriffs Association Lodge 25

Baltimore County Bar Association, Executive Council

Battle Grove Democratic Club

Maryland State Bar Association

Maryland Transportation Authority Police Lodge #34

Northwest/Catonsville Democratic Club

Southwest Baltimore County Democratic Club

Towson University Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #82

Vicki Almond (candidate for County Council, District 2)

Raymond M. Atkins, Jr. (candidate for House of Representatives, Congr. District 2)

Richard Arnold (candidate for Clerk of Court)

Delegate Sue Aumann (District 42)

Brian Bailey (candidate for County Council, District 1)

Steve Bailey (candidate for State's Attorney & former Deputy State's Attorney for Baltimore County)

Councilman Joseph Bartenfelder (District 6 and candidate for County Executive)

Sherrie Becker (candidate for County Council, District 2)

Cathy Bevins (candidate for County Council, District 6)

Marilyn Booker (candidate for House of Delegates, District 7)

Stephanie Boston (candidate for State Senate, District 10)

Delegate Joseph Boteler (District 8)

Cal Bowman (candidate for House of Delegates, District 8)

Senator Jim Brochin (District 42)

Cassandra Brown-Umoh (candidate for House of Delegates, District 6)

Art Buist (candidate for House of Delegates, District 42)

Delegate Jon Cardin (District 11)

T. Kevin Carney (candidate for State Senate, District 42)

Chris Cavey (Chairman, Baltimore County Republican Central Committee)

Tony Chambers (candidate for Clerk of Court)

Carlton Clendaniel (candidate for House of Delegates, District 6)

John Cluster (candidate for House of Delegates, District 8, and former 8th District Delegate, 2003-2007)

Grace Connolly (Register of Wills)

Del. Steven J. DeBoy (District 12A)

Pete Definbaugh (candidate for House of Delegates, District 5B)

Rebecca Dongarra (candidate for County Council, District 1)

Michael Ertel (candidate for County Council, District 5)

Orphans Court Judge William Evans

John Fiastro (candidate for House of Delegates, District 42)

Arthur Frank, Esq. (former Judicial Candidate for Baltimore County Circuit Court)

Delegate Bill Frank (District 42)

Dr. John "Jack" Gordon (candidate for House of Delegates, District 42)

Gordon Harden (candidate for County Council, District 5)

Jon Herbst (candidate for County Council, District 2)

Kristy Herring (candidate for County Council, District 4)

William "Bill" Hill (candidate for Democratic Central Committee, District 42)

Dee Hodges (candidate for State Senate, District 8)

Larry Hogan (CEO & President of The Hogan Companies & former Cabinet Secretary under Bob Ehrlich)

Ken Holt (candidate for County Executive)

Todd Huff (candidate for County Council, District 3)

Delegate Rick Impallaria (District 7)

Delegate Adrienne Jones (District 10)

Julian Jones, Jr. (candidate for County Council, District 4)

Leronia A. Josey (candidate for County Council, District 4)

Delegate Wade Kach (District 5B)

Councilman Kevin Kamenetz (District 2 and candidate for County Executive)

Senator Edward Kasemeyer (District 12)

Senator Delores Kelley (District 10)

Senator Kathy Klausmeier (District 8)

Delegate Stephen Lafferty (District 42)

Benjamin Lawless (candidate for State Senate, District 8)

Bob Long (candidate for House of Delegates, District 6)

Berchie Manley (former Baltimore County Councilwoman)

David Marks (candidate for County Council, District 5)

Daniel McAndrew (candidate for US Senate)

Councilman Bryan McIntyre (District 3)

Suzanne Mensh (candidate for Clerk of Court)

Rani Merryman (candidate for House of Delegates, District 8)

Ric Metzgar (candidate for House of Delegates, District 6)

Delegate Joseph "Sonny" Minnick (District 6)

David "SKI" Mioduszewski (candidate for House of Delegates, District 7)

Delegate Dan Morhaim (District 10)

Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (District 10)

Sandra O'Connor (former multi-term State's Attorney for Baltimore County)

Councilman Kenneth N. Oliver (District 4)
Delegate John A. Olszewski Jr. (District 6)
Councilman John A. Olszewski Sr. (District 7)
Bill Paulshock (candidate for County Council, District 5)
Tom Quirk (candidate for County Council, District 1)
Al Redmer (candidate for State Senate, District 7)
Richard Reinhardt (candidate for Clerk of Court)
Douglas Riley (former multi-term County Councilman)
Timmy Ruppertsberger (candidate for County Council, District 2)
Norma Secoura (candidate for House of Delegates, District 8)
Scott Shellenberger (State's Attorney for Baltimore County)
Delegate Todd Schuler (candidate for County Council, District 6)
Delegate Dana Stein (District 11)
Senator Norman Stone (District 6)
Blaine Taylor (candidate for US Senate)
Stephen Whisler (candidate for County Council, District 1)

Senator Robert Zirkin (District 11)



August 17 at 11:02pm

Kathy,

I don't believe anybody. I think you both are serving your own interests and I just happened to be privy to it. In all honesty, nobody's perfect but someone has to be the better person. I still have time to decide. All you've done is bash this guy with no endorsements for another candidate of your own. So you think anybody is better than him?

If your beef is with him, then do what you need to do. I just don't want to keep hearing about it. Nothing annoys me more than badmouthing others behind their backs or just out and out complaining. Do something constructive with your passion and knowledge to educate others.

Cheers,

Niya

ATTACHMENT B

JUDICIAL ELECTION COMPLAINT FORM

Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee
P.O. Box 10427
Baltimore, Maryland 21209

Date of Complaint: 8/18/2010

Name of Individual Making Complaint: T Scott Beckman

Complete Address: 2001 Holly Ridge Ct. Lutherville, MD 21093

Phone (day): (443) 831-9653 Phone (evening): _____

Email address: TSCBECKMAN@AOL.COM

Name of Judicial candidate who is the subject of this Complaint:

William Sogge State - Baltimore County

NATURE OF COMPLAINT: (Please be specific and attach pertinent materials as necessary. If your Complaint involves television commercials, radio broadcasts, internet sites, etc., please attach a copy of the video or audiotape, if available. Attach additional sheets, as needed.)

SEE EMAIL ALREADY SENT.

I have read the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee's Standards for the Conduct of Contested Judicial Elections and believe the actions or activity described above constitutes a violation of those Standards. The above-referenced Complaint is true and correct, or is stated to be on information and belief is true and correct to the best of my information and belief.

T Scott Beckman
Signature

ATTACHMENT C

Scott Beckman: The Real Story

Warning: Sexually explicit material not suitable for children under the age of 18.

Search

Search Search the site

Search

No Experience

Circuit Court Judges across Maryland preside over jury trials daily. According to the Maryland State Court Website, Beckman has NEVER even tried a single jury trial as an attorney.



Scott Beckman: The Real Story **Continues**

Pages

- Home
- Above the Law
- College Dorms
- Demeaning to Women
- Hottest Clerks
- No Ethics
- No Experience
- No People

ATTACHMENT D

Read Message

Previous

Next

Move To



From: Tsbeckman@aol.com <Tsbeckman@aol.com>

To: committee@mdjccc.org

Cc:

Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2010 01:03 pm

Subject: Re: MDJCCC Complaint regarding Sitting Judges Slate

Thank you for investigating. I am basing my complaint on the literature your organization supplies to every judicial candidate. Several classic examples of "what is not allowed" seem to have taken place.

1) Ms. Blue stated that "He lacks experience, integrity, honesty and judicial temperament." Do you accept candidates calling each other dishonest? This is a baseless statement.

2) She tells my supporter that "He has, without permission and contrary to what he says, tacked his campaign signs and stickers on to Ehrlich's in an effort to make people believe that Ehrlich has endorsed him" The fact is that I asked permission of the Ehrlich Campaign & was granted permission from their Baltimore County representative, Chris Cavey. I has this permission in writing.

3) She tells my supported that "spent his short legal career defending violent and nonviolent predators (juvenile and adult) and arguing to keep them out of detention/jail and on the streets." This is a CLEAR violation. Almost verbatim of the example you provide in your literature. The job of a criminal defense attorney is to represent the accused. She is implying that I am okay with criminals. This is by far the most glaring and obvious violation.

4) She then attacks my character again by saying "I value hard work, integrity, honesty, merit, practical experience and nonpartisanship in all judicial candidates. Beckman has none of those, and has very little actual jury trial experience which is a crucial requirement for any Circuit court judge." I lack honesty? I lack merit? I don't work hard? In addition, she acknowledges that I have jury trial experience. If you look at the smear website she is a part of, it is claimed that "

Circuit Court Judges across Maryland preside over jury trials daily. According to the Maryland State Court Website, Beckman has NEVER even tried a single jury trial as an attorney.

They know that is untrue. Do I have very little jury trial experience or have I NEVER tried a single jury trial? They know that I have ... and that's why they intentionally included "According to the Maryland State Court Website" disclaimer. They INTENTIONALLY are misleading (lying to) people about my credentials.

5) She takes it to another level entirely by saying "He's a fraud, trust me. He literally threatened and cussed out a promising Republican candidate a few months ago and has an inappropriate interest in sexually explicit material." None of that is true. It's a lie that I threatened anyone or cussed out anyone. In addition, I deny having any inappropriate interest in sexually explicit material. Even if I did -- what would that have to do with my ability to be a judge? Is a judge unqualified if he has ever had a look at Playboy magazine? This is a smear - plain and simple. It cannot be tolerated.

There are a host of other allegations made against me on the website that are out of order too. My comments are taken totally out of context and they are portraying me as some sort of deviant, sexist, corrupt, unqualified attorney. I realize this is politics ... but aren't judicial elections supposed to be different?

I ask respectfully that your organization take whatever action it is allowed to take. I want something done about this clear abuse of the rule covering the conduct of those involved in judicial campaigns. Ms. Blue DOES work for The Sitting Judges. She has attended nearly every function with them. I hold the Judges equally responsible ...

along with Andy Alperstein, the head of the Judge's campaign organization. He is well aware of the false and inappropriate allegations being made and he authorized the dissemination of this information by website AND my direct mailing.

Please let me know what action you plan to take.

Very Truly Yours,

T. Scott Beckman

In a message dated 8/30/2010 4:21:05 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, committee@mdjccc.org writes:

Mr. Beckman:

In order to aid the Committee in its investigation of your complaints against the Sitting Judge's Slate, we ask that you be more specific: In regard to Ms. Blue's communications with Ms. Martin, which comments do you believe violate MDJCCC Standards? In regard to the website scottbeckmantherealstory.com, what content to you believe violates the Standards?

With early voting set to begin on Friday, we hope you understand our request that you provide this information in the next 24 hours.

Thank you.

Attachments: Text version of this message. (4KB)

Previous

Next

ATTACHMENT E

Keep Our Circuit Court Judges
ALEXANDER, BAILEY, BROBST AND NAGLE

Hon. Jan M. Alexander
Hon. Sherrie R. Bailey
Hon. S. Ann Brobst
Hon. John J. Nagle III

Andrew I. Alperstein, Esq.
Campaign Chairman

September 3, 2010

Linda B. Pierson, Chairwoman
Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee, Inc.
P.O. Box 10427
Baltimore, Maryland 21209

Re: Complaint – T. Scott Beckman

Dear Ms. Pierson:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Complaint filed against Judge Jan M. Alexander, Judge Sherrie R. Bailey, Judge S. Ann Brobst, and Judge John J. Nagle III (together, the “Sitting Judges”) by T. Scott Beckman (“Mr. Beckman”). As you know, Mr. Beckman, along with each of the Sitting Judges, are candidates for election to the Circuit Court for Baltimore County.

Adherence to MDJCCC’s standards of conduct for judicial campaigns is voluntary, (<http://www.mdjccc.org/index.html>), accordingly, it creates an imbalance when—as here—some candidates agree to follow those rules, while another rejects them. The Sitting Judges have each taken MDJCCC’s pledge to campaign according to standards of honesty and dignity. (<http://www.mdjccc.org/elections.html>) As explained below, the Sitting Judges have conducted their campaign in accordance with those standards. Mr. Beckman, however, has refused to sign MDJCCC’s pledge, *id.*, and has refused to conduct his campaign with even a semblance of dignity or decorum. It is even more galling that Mr. Beckman is using the MDJCCC for his own political gain by posting to his various Facebook pages that the MDJCCC is “investigating the Sitting Judges.” In light of his own behavior, it is shameful that Mr. Beckman has filed a baseless complaint with the MDJCCC.

Mr. Beckman’s complaint is comprised of two parts: (1) the undisputed facts

P.O. Box 10503
Towson, Maryland 21285
(410) 980 - 0006
sittingjudges@yahoo.com
www.sittingjudges.com

Auth: Baltimore County
Sitting Judges Slate,
Eileen G. Thompson, *Treasurer*

contained on the website www.scottbeckmantherealstory.com; and (2) Kathy Blue's comments on Facebook. We will address both parts of the Complaint as follows: **Scott Beckman – The Real Story** ([<<http://www.scottbeckmantherealstory.com>>](http://www.scottbeckmantherealstory.com))

Mr. Beckman complains to the MDJCCC that the content published by the Sitting Judges on the website ([<<http://www.scottbeckmantherealstory.com>>](http://www.scottbeckmantherealstory.com)) challenges his "integrity, honesty and my treatment of women." Mr. Beckman is absolutely correct – the Sitting Judges maintain that Mr. Beckman is not fit to serve on the judiciary and the proof that the Sitting Judges have offered are Mr. Beckman's *own words*. Every statement that challenges Mr. Beckman's "integrity, honesty, and treatment of women" was made by Mr. Beckman himself—a fact he admitted to both Laura Vozella of the Baltimore Sun ("Reached by e-mail, the 40-year-old Beckman acknowledged that the comments were his, but said that they were made in jest") (**Exhibit 1**) and Bryan Sears of the Towson Times ("I might have said those things, but that's not a part of my campaign.") (**Exhibit 2**)

The Sitting Judges believe that the voters of Baltimore County have the right to know the truth about candidates for office – free from hyperbole or commentary. Instead, the website gathers Mr. Beckman's own statements to allow voters to decide for themselves if he is suitable to be elected and to serve as a judge.

In creating the website, the Sitting Judges pro-actively removed the last names and images of those persons who may have contributed or joined in Mr. Beckman's postings. The Sitting Judges were careful to appropriately shade/white out the sexually graphic images put forth by Mr. Beckman. The Sitting Judges ensured that the written content on the site was that of Mr. Beckman's, so that there would be no confusion or factual dispute as to its author. The Sitting Judges want voters to know the facts, and were careful not to publish anything that was not completely verified or Mr. Beckman's own words. For example, nowhere on the website will you find any reference to the rumors that Mr. Beckman was recently asked to leave his job at the Public Defender's Office. You will also not see any reference to the rumor of the recent issuance of a Show Cause Order for contempt against Mr. Beckman to appear in Court and explain why he was not competently representing his juvenile clients to the standards mandated by the Maryland Rules of Professional Conduct. We did not include that information because we believed it would be difficult to independently verify such information from confidential employment records and juvenile court files.

Instead, the website is limited to a factual record created by Mr. Beckman himself. In deference to the MDJCCC standards, the Sitting Judges have refrained from commenting or offering their opinions about Mr. Beckman and

his fitness (or lack thereof) to serve on the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. Instead, the Sitting Judges authorized a fact-based website to allow voters to reach their own conclusions as to whether Mr. Beckman's temperament, integrity, maturity, experience, and judgment is worthy of their vote to serve on the Baltimore County Circuit Court.

Kathy Murphy Blue

Just last month, in mid-July 2010, the Maryland State Board of Elections ("MSBE") formally recognized that social media has changed the manner in which voters receive information. The MSBE determined that voters should be able to determine whether a social media account, *i.e. Facebook, Twitter*, that they are viewing is part of a candidate's official campaign. Thus, MSBE passed social media election regulations that require candidates for political office to include an authority line on all of their campaign social media accounts.¹

Prior to the adoption of the MSBE regulations, and in recognition of the rights of their thousands of supporters to state their own personal opinions and beliefs, the Sitting Judges mandated early in the campaign that an authority line was to be placed on all authorized Sitting Judges' communications. Each sign, bumper sticker, Facebook page, and website made by or for the Sitting Judges contains our authority line.

As you can see from the Facebook postings complained of by Mr. Beckman in his original Complaint, Ms. Blue's comments do not contain an authority line and were not vetted, endorsed, or authorized by the Sitting Judges. Instead, Ms. Blue's postings are her own individual thoughts and beliefs – and not those put forth by the Sitting Judges' Campaign.

Ms. Blue is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Maryland, and a former Assistant State's Attorney. Her father, Robert C. Murphy, served as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland for many years, and her sister currently serves as a Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Blue was selected by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the trial courts in Baltimore County. Her passion for a qualified and competent judiciary is unrivaled.

While Ms. Blue is a devoted supporter of the Sitting Judges, she is not an executive officer with the Campaign. Instead, she is one of 1,000+, unpaid volunteers who

¹ Notably, Mr. Beckman has thumbed his nose at Maryland's Election Laws and has not placed proper authority lines on his yard signs, bumper stickers and his many social media pages. Our understanding and belief is that the State Board of Elections has notified the State Prosecutor's Office of Mr. Beckman's failures to follow Maryland election law.

has her own strong opinions about candidates for office – including Mr. Beckman. Ms. Blue has been a campaign volunteer since December 2009. She assists in managing the Judges' calendar of events, and often posts updates on the Judges' Facebook page relating to their attendance at events or endorsements. Again, Ms. Blue's postings on the Judges' Facebook page are made on behalf of the Campaign, which contains an embedded authority line in accordance with Maryland law.

In your email of August 31, 2010, at Mr. Beckman's urging, you specifically inquired of two postings on the Facebook page of "Northeast Baltimore County for Bob Ehrlich." – one on June 30th and the other on July 28th. Ms. Blue's June 30th posting at 1:15PM is set forth herein:

Judges Alexander, Bailey, Brobst & Nagle are humbled to have received the endorsement of numerous community leaders, elected officials & other individuals throughout Baltimore County. These endorsements come from the many Republican and Democrat leaders who recognize that judicial elections should be bipartisan and no-political in nature - as envisioned in the Maryland Constitution, Citizens should always be informed about the personal and professional qualifications of those seeking election, and the Judges have spent a great deal of time in 2009 and 2010 attending events around the County to meet concerned citizens and to educate the public about this important election. In that regard, these Baltimore County judges invite you to please visit their page to learn about their outstanding qualifications and years of community service, and to view the numerous endorsements they have received from Democrats and Republicans alike. You can access their page by clicking on the link below. Endorsements to date and the Judges' biographies may be found in the NOTES section. [By authority: Baltimore County Sitting Judges Slate, Eileen G. Thompson, Treasurer]

n-political in nature – as envisioned in the Maryland Constitution. Citizens should always be informed about the personal and professional qualifications of those seeking election, and the Judges have spent a great deal of time in 2009 and 2010 attending events around the County to meet concerned citizens and to educate the public about this important election. In that regard, these Baltimore County judges invite you to please visit their page to learn about their outstanding qualifications & years of community service, and to view the numerous endorsements they have received from Democrats and Republicans alike. You can access their page by clicking on the link below. Endorsements to date and the Judges' biographies may be found in the NOTES section. [By authority: Baltimore County Sitting Judges Slate, Eileen G. Thompson, Treasurer]

Here, Ms. Blue's posting was approved by the Sitting Judges and made on their behalf. Ms. Blue typed this posting on her own computer -- the campaign does

not own a computer and does not have an office. After a review of the “Northeast Baltimore County for Bob Ehrlich” Facebook page, we cannot find a July 28th posting by Ms. Blue so we cannot respond to your inquiry of that date.

You also asked about the exchange between Kathy Blue and Niya Martin between August 14 -17, 2010. First, you should know that Mr. Beckman did not provide you copies of the entire dialogue between Ms. Blue and Ms. Martin; and therefore, you do not have the entirety of the communications. Second, it is important to recognize that the exchange between Ms. Blue and Ms. Martin was a “personal message” exchange between them through Facebook technology – akin to an email dialogue facilitated by Facebook. These communications were not posted to a Facebook page like the posting set forth above. These were “personal messages,” and cannot be seen electronically or forwarded by anyone other than the intended parties. In these messages, Ms. Blue expressed her own deeply held personal views, which she freely acknowledges were not reviewed or approved by the Sitting Judges. That Ms. Blue believes that Mr. Beckman is not fit for judicial office is her opinion and not subject to regulation by the MDJCCC.

On August 23, 2010, soon after our telephone conversation but prior to receiving Beckman’s Complaint, I sent a direct e-mail reminding campaign volunteers that no one is authorized to place an authority line on any campaign material, including social media postings, without my express permission as Campaign Chairman. **(Exhibit 3)** The Sitting Judges fundamentally believe in one’s right to free speech, and maintain that Ms. Blue and all Baltimore County voters have the right to engage in political discourse free from regulation – so long as such communications are not made under the guise of the Sitting Judges’ authority. Here, there can be no doubt, based upon the plain face of the communications, the Facebook postings or personal messages complained of by Mr. Beckman were not made by and are not attributable to the Sitting Judges.

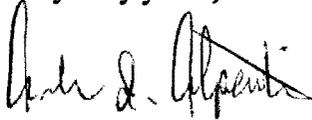
Mr. Beckman’s Despicable Campaign Conduct

Beckman has continuously attacked, ridiculed, and demeaned the Sitting Judges and the rest of the bench of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County . He called the Circuit Court bench “scumbags.” **(Exhibit 4)** He compared them to the “sleazy judge accused of rape” in the movie, “And Justice for All.” **(Exhibit 5)** He refers to judges as “warped and nasty.” *Id.* He calls Maryland judges “political cronies.” **(Exhibit 6)** He refers to another Baltimore County Circuit Judge as being “out there” in “Souder Space” and publicly demeans her because her boyfriend supports the Sitting Judges. **(Exhibit 7)** He even stoops as low as to say that the Circuit Court bench has issues with “adultery, drug use, drinking problems, [and] DWI arrests.” **(Exhibit 8)** Each of these alone, and certainly all of them cumulatively, would violate Standard III of the MDJCCC’s standard which provides that “[a] candidate shall communicate in a dignified

manner and shall refrain from making inflammatory, sensational or abusive statements.” But because Mr. Beckman refuses to pledge to conduct himself appropriately, the Sitting Judges cannot assert a claim with the MDJCCC against him or otherwise restrain his unprofessional behavior. Instead, all they can do is tell the world, in a truthful, honest, and dignified manner, the real story about T. Scott Beckman.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to discuss these issues with the MDJCCC. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew I. Alperstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Andrew I. Alperstein,
Campaign Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jan M. Alexander
The Honorable Sherrie R. Bailey
The Honorable S. Anne Brobst
The Honorable John J. Nagle, III