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SUPREME COURT  
COURT OF APPEALS

**Special Committee on Judicial Election Campaign Intervention  
2020 Judicial Elections**

**2020-04**

The Special Committee on Judicial Election Campaign Intervention (“Special Committee”) received a complaint against a judicial candidate for the use of the title “Judge” in campaign yard signs and for the use of the judicial candidate’s photograph in the candidate’s judicial robes on campaign yard signs. In accordance with Canon 5F(5) notice of the complaint and an opportunity to respond were provided to the judicial candidate against whom the complaint was filed.

Pursuant to Canon 5F(4), the Special Committee finds the matter to be of sufficient general interest and importance and therefore issues this decision.

The Special Committee reviewed the complaint. The Special Committee acknowledges that the campaign material at issue constitutes a yard campaign sign with limited space that announces support. The Special Committee also acknowledges that Canon 5A(3)(d)(iii) prohibits judicial candidates from misrepresenting the identity, qualifications, present position or other fact concerning the candidate.

Upon review of the complaint, the Special Committee has determined that the judicial candidate currently holds judicial office and currently holds the title of Judge. The judicial candidate is now seeking a different judicial office that holds the title of Justice, not Judge. *See* Mississippi Code Annotated sections 23-15-875 and 9-1-101. The campaign yard signs at issue reflect the word “elect”, and the candidate is not portraying that the candidate now holds the position of Justice or seeks re-election to the judicial office of Justice. The term “elect” is displayed in readable size and form.

Based upon the foregoing with respect to the campaign yard sign at issue, because the judicial candidate currently holds the title/position of Judge while seeking election to a court wherein the judicial officers hold a different title of Justice, the Special Committee finds no unfair, unethical, or misleading campaign conduct in the use of the title of the current position held of Judge or in the use of a photograph of the judicial candidate in judicial robes of the office currently held. This allegation is therefore dismissed.

This opinion is limited to the scope and authority of the Special Committee under the Mississippi Code of Judicial Conduct.

Any questions should be in writing and directed to the following:

**Special Committee on Judicial Election Campaign Intervention**  
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