

**NORTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION REGARDING JUDICIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNING**

Consistent with the preservation of First Amendment principles and the importance of having an informed electorate, and recognizing the unique role of a fair and impartial judiciary in our Constitutional system, the North Carolina Bar Association urges all candidates for judicial office to refrain voluntarily from campaign conduct that would impugn the integrity of the judiciary. The public's right to know whether candidates, including judicial candidates, are qualified for public office is of fundamental importance to the electoral process. Candidates for judicial office should freely disclose all pertinent information that might help voters to make an informed choice at the polls. Preserving the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary should also be an important consideration for voters and for those who seek public office. Every candidate for public office should pledge to campaign fairly and, if elected, to carry out the duties of public office, consistent with the Constitution and the laws of the United States and North Carolina, in a manner which best serves the interests of the people of North Carolina.

Judicial candidates should not comment on pending cases or on issues which might reasonably become the subject of litigation and should not pledge to resolve specific cases in a particular way or to resolve legal issues according to any standard other than the merits of the case pending before them. Judicial candidates may address issues relating to the organization and administration of the court system.

Judicial candidates should not distort the substance and controlling legal principles of prior court decisions. Derogatory comments or inferences concerning race, religion, gender and national origin should not be injected as factors in a judicial election campaign. References to competing candidates should be made in a professional manner, should be factual and without innuendo or derision. The highest degree of professionalism and civility toward all opponents should be practiced in all aspects of the campaign.

This Resolution was adopted by the Board of Governors of the North Carolina Bar Association on January 17, 2002.

I support, and will personally abide by, this resolution.

Signature of Candidate for Judicial Office

Date

Please print or type name

Please return signed pledge to:
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Director of Governmental Affairs
North Carolina Bar Association
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