

Clerk of Supreme Court - Recusal of Judges

From: "Eric Andersen" [REDACTED]
To: <clerk@wicourts.gov>
Date: 3/29/2017 1:17 PM
Subject: Recusal of Judges
CC: "Robert Cowles" <[REDACTED]>, <[REDACTED]>

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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

I believe that we are in a unique and dangerous time in our history. Outside money in politics has become so enormous and so secretive that it is destroying the fabric of honest justice. I know elected officials who cringe at accepting donor funds as they know .. just like in the movie 'The Godfather' .. that someday a 'favor' will be due. Yet our current electoral system is fed by money and to win one needs to spend and advertise .. that will be the case until some courts have the courage to overturn Citizens United for the public good.

To restore public trust and vote clearly and without compromise I ask that any and all judges who have a financial stake in a court decision recuse themselves. This is morally right. I also think this is taught in law school. My grandfather, Frank Hannaford, an Attorney and Clerk of Courts in Milwaukee certainly said it was.

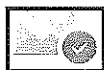
Help restore confidence in our judicial system. We need to be able to trust our judges. Any hint of financial compromise, real or not should lead to a judges recusal from that case.

At some point in our lives we take a look back. I would hope that all the judges and others who review this note will be willing to honestly state 'money and outside interests did not prejudice my legal decisions.' Those persons will sleep better and future generations will respect them.

I would hope that we eventually realize that 'money and speech' are not the same as Justice Scalia used to defend his Citizens United decision. I should know .. I am a retired advertising professional with over 30 years in that business including partner in an advertising agency. It is one thing to sell a tube of toothpaste with a bit of hyperbole. .. that logic does not hold when we are making court decisions that affect lives and history and the environment.

Sincerely,

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