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Gableman ad criticized by 34 current, former judges

By Steven Walters

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Madison - Thirty-four current and former judges issued a statement today condemning an ad run by the campaign of Burnett County Circuit Court Judge Michael Gableman.

All but two of the judges had already endorsed Gableman's opponent, Supreme Court Justice Louis Butler, however.

In a statement, the 34 said an ad the Gableman ad that includes Butler's picture next to the picture of a convicted child sex offender, Reuben Lee Mitchell, "marks a new low in judicial campaigns in this state."

Before he became a municipal and, then, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge, Butler worked as a public defender and was Mitchell's lawyer before the Court of Appeals.

"The effectiveness of the judiciary depends upon public trust and confidence in the fairness and integrity of judges," the statement says. "Judge Gableman's unbecoming tactics not only bring shame upon him, they taint all judges and justices."

The 34 judges included former Supreme Court Justice William Bablitch and several Milwaukee County Circuit Court judges who had served with Butler.

But only two of 34 -- Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Timothy Van Akkeren and Richland County Circuit Judge Patricia McMahon -- had not previously endorsed Butler. Butler has the endorsement of 225 judges across the state, compared with 13 judges listed in support of Gableman on his Web site.

Asked to respond, Gableman campaign adviser Darrin Schmitz issued this statement:

"Butler and his supporters are trying to distract voters from the strong contrast between the candidates. As a prosecutor Mike Gableman worked to put criminals behind bars, while as a criminal defense attorney Louis Butler was working to free sex offenders and rapists.
"Louis Butler's work as a criminal defense lawyer is public record. In fact, he recently said, 'I'm proud of the work I've done. I'm proud of the individuals that I've represented.'"

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I haven't seen any ads by Gableman or his opponents that were in good taste. Personally after all these childish ads I don't want any of these clowns deciding anyone's fate.

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"...while as a criminal defense attorney Louis Butler was working to free sex offenders and rapists."

sigh

advertisement

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Apparently defense lawyers are the scum of the earth for doing their job. It frightens me that someone attempting to hold the highest position in the justice system has demonstrated such contempt for the very system. Everyone gets their day in court. Gableman is a buffoon for resting his campaign on absurd statements like these.

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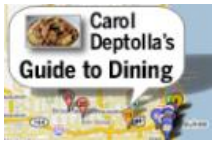

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