

Statement of Matthew O'Neill

CONTACT:

Matthew W. O'Neill
Fox, O'Neill & Shannon, S.C.
(414) 273-3939

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judge Randy Koschnick violated Wisconsin law by publicly disclosing that he filed a complaint against Audrey Skwierawski with the Wisconsin Judicial Commission. Such complaints are strictly confidential, specifically to protect judges from baseless allegations of misconduct and to prevent the Judicial Commission's complaint procedure from being used for political purposes. That is precisely what Judge Koschnick did when he first publicized his complaint in August, and again when he publicly commented on the matter today.

I cannot and will not comment on the Judicial Commission process or the specific complaint. I can say that the issue as improperly described by Judge Koschnick has no merit – a judge can serve in the role of Director of State Courts. The constitutional provision at issue expressly allows a judge to serve in a different “judicial office,” which includes the Director of State Courts. The Supreme Court Rules governing judges expressly allow judges to accept other governmental positions concerned with “ the improvement of the law, the legal system or the administration of justice.” It is not only allowable but preferred that a judge serve in the role of Director of State Courts.

Judge Skwierawski simply wants to serve the people of Wisconsin, in the same manner that Judge Koschnick did during his four years as Director of State Courts. She wishes Judge Koschnick well in his future endeavors.