

Portion of Democratic Party Central Committee Member, Attorney Richard Duquette, email to Committee Members after Judge Rosenstein's lobbying for non-endorsement of Keehn when running for office against a sitting judge. (taken from San Diego Free Press "Thou Shalt Not Challenge a Sitting Judge")

"Then Keehn sought the endorsement of the County Democratic Central Committee. The Committee endorsed two incumbent judges (Michael Popkins and Cynthia Bashant), but when it came time to vote on Carla Keehn, it was suddenly "too political" and the consensus was the committee should "refrain from being involved in the judiciary."
Judge Paula Rosenstein was at the meeting and spoke about the party staying out of it.

Attorney Richard L. Duquette, a member of the Central Committee, was dissatisfied with this decision and fired off an email in protest. Here's a partial text::

The failure to endorse Ms. Keehn, merely because she is a challenger, does not show patience or prudence. Rather, it reveals weakness. Surely, the Committee is well aware that Ms. Keehn's candidacy would be severely hamstrung if it lacked her own Party's endorsement, especially after the Committee has forsaken its judicial independence by endorsing the sitting judges.

I have also heard arguments that withholding the endorsement of Ms. Keehn does not prevent her eventual success because she may be appointed by the Governor. Of course, this process is not only speculative, but also lengthy. It would likely take well over two years for such an appointment, (if it ever comes, given the nature of the Executive Branch). Further, such delay ignores the importance of immediacy when change is required.

Need I point out that the Republicans are promoting their own candidates, many of whom are groomed by large corporations, or large law firms that service them? We need diverse candidates, not servants to corporate America who have Lily white souls. Further, we cannot ignore lessons provided by the 2000 Presidential election (Bush v. Gore) and the influence of the conservative Supreme Court's Justices on the eventual outcome.

In this coming election, an immediate opportunity is available and Ms. Keehn has a legal right to run. There is no justifiable reason to withhold endorsement of a viable Democratic candidate. This is particularly true when the sitting Judge has suffered an arrest, criminal conviction, judicial reprimands, and numerous appellate reversals. We, as a unified group, are duty-bound to investigate not only these issues, but also any financial investments that may create an appearance of impropriety. (One such source is the Fair Political Practices 700 Form, which are available on line.) Are they beholden or deeply invested in the insurance industry while sitting on injury victims cases or in companies that outsource American jobs strictly to line their investment pockets?

The fact that a sitting judge has not yet been removed should not provide relief from continuous scrutiny, nor should our Committee shrink from backing the campaign of one

of its own. We should also investigate Democratic Judges up for re-election in order to determine if they are truly Democrats, in order to uphold the integrity of a Democratic endorsement.