

April 28, 2015

Last fall a Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina was running for re-election. Outside money funded vicious attack ads against her. In essence, Justice Robin Hudson was unfairly accused of "being on the side of child molesters" because of a judicial opinion relating to an ex post facto law.

Our chapter (Eastern North Carolina) adopted the attached statement, which was drafted by chapter member Jay Trehly, and signed by chapter President David Duke. The statement was published in the Raleigh News and Observer prior to the election.

The Justice who was unfairly attacked retained her seat on our Supreme Court. This was not a retention election; rather she was running for reelection.

Charles Bentley

The American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) is a national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges dedicated to the preservation and promotion of a fair and impartial judiciary and the right to trial by jury. ABOTA has no political affiliation.

The Eastern NC Chapter of ABOTA, with members of all political persuasions, strongly decries recent efforts to politicize the election of judges. We believe judges should be elected in a manner that assures well-trained, qualified, experienced, independent and neutral independent judges. Political attack-ads that distort a judge's record have no legitimate role in the election of judges.

Injecting politics into the election of judges erodes public confidence in our judiciary. Moreover, it weakens a critical, co-equal branch of our constitutional government. If we are to remain a nation of laws, we must have independent and neutral judges who will apply the law fairly and impartially.