

WMC Check – Fact Checking WMC Issue Ads

AD: “Tough Judges” :30 second ad

THEME: In this ad on behalf of Supreme Court candidate Michael Gableman, WMC claims Gableman has a strong prosecutorial record

CURRENT BUY: \$449,557 (the cost of the buy is likely much larger as this reflects the buying on one station in a given market)

MARKETS: Milwaukee, Green Bay, La Crosse, Wausau, Madison

CLAIM: “Crime’s an important issue in Wisconsin and we should thank judges like Michael Gableman who have been allies in the war on crime. Over 100 Wisconsin sheriffs, DAs and police chiefs have said Judge Michael Gableman has stood up to violent criminals.”

FACT: Michael Gableman has the endorsement of some members of law enforcement identified in the ad. [Source: Gableman website]

Louis Butler has been endorsed by over 200 judges and DAs. He has the support of over 18,000 members of law enforcement, including:

- Wisconsin Professional Police Association
- Milwaukee Police Association
- Wisconsin Law Enforcement League
- Wisconsin Troopers Association
- Milwaukee Deputy Sheriffs Association

[Source: Butler website]

CLAIM: “As a prosecutor Judge Michael Gableman tackled arson, sexual assault, domestic violence and white collar crime.”

FACT: According to media accounts and independent research, an exhaustive search of online public records in Wisconsin’s Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) found:

- Gableman has “only prosecuted one arson case, which was ordered an acquittal.”
- “In 19 felony child abuse cases, three were dismissed, 13 pleaded out to misdemeanor crimes, two were found not guilty at trial and only one was sentenced to prison time.”
- Gableman pled nearly half of felony sexual assault of children cases to misdemeanors
- Whether Gableman actually handled any white collar prosecutions “is up for debate.” [Source: WISC-TV, 3/8/08]

As Ashland County District Attorney, only two of the six trials in which Gableman was the prosecutor did he win and one was overturned on appeal. This left Gableman with “only one successfully prosecuted case...As a judge, one-third of his rulings were overturned - a very weak record.” [*Shepherd-Express*, 3/12/08]

CLAIM: “District Attorneys say that Judge Michael Gableman applies the law and doesn’t look for loopholes. Contact Judge Gableman. Tell him tough judges keep us safe.”

FACT: As a prosecutor, Gableman entered into plea deals with child sex offenders 70 percent of the time, often turning felonies in to just misdemeanors. [Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Program]

Gableman, on average, sentences child sex predators to 25 less years than the maximum allowable by law. [Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Program]