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Gableman Admitting to Traveling to McCallum Fundraiser on State Time?

Judge Ignores State Ethics Laws on Campaign Activities on State Time

Milwaukee - Questions raised by One Wisconsin Now that as an Administrative Law Judge Mike Gableman failed to take leave while traveling over 500 miles back and forth across the state for a fundraiser for former Governor Scott McCallum appear to have been confirmed Wednesday afternoon by a Gableman campaign press release.

"Mike Gableman's campaign seems to be admitting that he was on the state taxpayers' time when he crisscrossed Wisconsin for a fundraiser he hosted for Scott McCallum," said Scot Ross, Executive Director of One Wisconsin Now. "Considering the way in which Gableman jumped ahead of six candidates for a judge position that no records exist of him applying or interviewing for, is it any wonder his conduct continues to raise questions?"

The details of the June 12, 2002 Cable fundraiser and Gableman's attendance surfaced during an investigation by One Wisconsin Now which questioned the circumstances surrounding Gableman's appointment by McCallum to the Burnett County Circuit Court. Gableman received the judgeship after hosting the fundraiser, introducing and sitting with McCallum and following donations of \$2,500 by Gableman. [[Northwoods Regional Governor's Club Event Memo, 6/12/02](#)]

In a statement that appears to admit improper conduct, Gableman's campaign refused to take responsibility, stating:

"Judge Gableman secured permission from his supervisor to attend an event on behalf of the governor and was back at work the next day."

"What kind of legal mind thinks it would be acceptable under state ethics laws to get paid by the state to drive to a fundraiser?" asked Ross. "And how does a supervisor grant a state employee paid time off to do campaign activities?"

Gableman's actions occurred in the midst of the highly-publicized revelations about the Capitol caucus scandal.

The release also includes several misstatements about OWN's investigation and are attempts to distort the issue about Gableman's improper conduct.

Gableman Release: "One Wisconsin Now (OWN) is circulating a falsehood that it was improper for Judge Gableman to attend an event on behalf of Governor McCallum."

Reality: As a state employee, there is no prohibition on Gableman attending a fundraiser BUT it is improper to do so during time he was on the clock for state taxpayers.

Gableman Release: "The Judicial Code of Conduct does not cover administrative law judges and the judge was free to contribute to anyone including the governor."

(MORE)

Reality: The legality of a contribution from an Administrative Law Judge to the Governor who appointed him to the administrative law judge position and then to a position as circuit court judge is not in question. What is under scrutiny is Gableman donated \$2,500, hosted and attended McCallum fundraisers and then suddenly was named to be a circuit court judge. No records can be found proving he applied for the circuit court judgeship, was interviewed, was vetted or had a background check prior to McCallum ignoring his own screening committee to pick Gableman out of nowhere.

Documents and previous releases about Gableman's suspicious appointment are available at:
<http://www.onewisconsinnow.org/suspiciousappointment>.

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