

**5647 Santa Anita Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32309  
November 7, 2004**

**Mr. Russell R Wheeler, Deputy Director  
THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER  
THURGOOD MARSHALL FEDERAL JUDICIARY BLDG  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002-8003**

**Dear Mr. Wheeler:**

I would like to comment on your letter of October 27, 2004 and register some concerns about the process of evaluating the handling of federal judicial misconduct complaints. I make these comments after reviewing the judicial integrity I have been personally exposed to in the U.S. 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit.

**First** I must question why any circuit has the authority to make any demands of the investigating committee regarding "masking" the names of the principals. It would seem that identifying a pattern of misconduct on the part of a particular judge would be very important. Multiple examples of misconduct, by a particular judge, would demonstrate conduct that might warrant impeachment or discipline and also raise question of the Chief Judge's ability to supervise the circuit. All competent judges should be proud of their conduct, not fear public scrutiny, and be able to offer an educated response to any misconduct allegations.

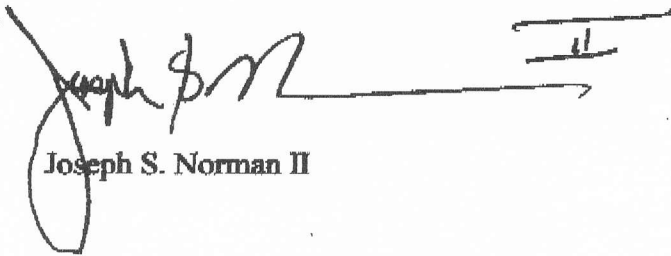
**Second** I am concerned that circuits would not reveal serious misconduct complaints to the investigating committee. I have found the Chief Judge in the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit is willing to ignore the Canons of Judicial Conduct to protect judges under his supervision. Judge Edmundson demonstrated his integrity when he dismissed my misconduct complaint using canned language without any comment on the allegations of fraud outlined in the complaint. Any Chief Judge who is willing to overlook clear abrogation of the Canons of Judicial Conduct is certainly capable of hiding serious misconduct complaints.

**Third**, there should be a precise response to any allegation of judicial misconduct. Dismissal of a complaint with "canned language" does nothing but escape accountability.

Please involve some non-attorneys in the evaluation of the handling of judicial misconduct allegations. Sometimes individuals with a different thought process can identify problems others involved in a project overlook.

I am also interested in the criteria established for selecting misconduct complaints that are undergoing review, please enlighten me on this criteria.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph S. Norman II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the beginning. A horizontal line is drawn across the end of the signature, and a small horizontal line is drawn above it, possibly indicating a signature line or a mark.

Joseph S. Norman II