

**RIPLEY E. RAND
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE**

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August 22, 2006

Mr. William J. Brooks
President
North Carolina Family Policy Council
Post Office Box 20607
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

Dear Mr. Brooks:

I write this letter in response to the questionnaire sent to me by the Family Policy Council. I currently serve as a Wake County Resident Superior Court Judge in Judicial District 10-B, and am running in a nonpartisan race in the 2006 general election to retain my seat.

After careful consideration, I have concluded that it would not be appropriate for me to directly answer the questions posed in your questionnaire. I am familiar with the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Republican Party of Minnesota v. White*, 536 U.S. 765 (2002), and the other Supreme Court precedent cited in those questions. There are two reasons supporting my belief in this regard.

First, I do not believe it to be appropriate to discuss my personal feelings about United States Supreme Court precedent or any other statutory or case law. My personal feelings about specific cases or legal principles do not play a role in my job as a judge, and as such are not relevant to the oath of office that I took and the requirements that I follow applicable statutory and case law.

Second, I do not believe it to be appropriate to offer commentary on matters that may be the subject of litigation before me at some point. In my opinion, the public's faith in the integrity of our judicial system is undermined when judges or judicial candidates offer personal views on disputed issues of legal or political concern. My job as a Superior Court Judge is to decide the cases before me based on the individual facts of each case and the law that applies to each case, and not on some predetermined notion I may have on a particular legal or social issue. In that regard, I applaud the recent testimony of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito of the United

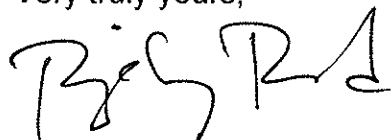
States Supreme Court during their Senate confirmation hearings, in which both Justices declined to offer commentary on matters that might be the subject of litigation that came before them.

As a member of our local bar's Professionalism Committee, I work very hard to promote both the practice and the appearance of fairness and professionalism in our court system - not only with attorneys, but with court personnel, jurors, the public, and anyone else who has business with the court. To offer my personal opinions as to certain issues in the absence of a court hearing on specific facts with both sides in a case having had the opportunity to be heard would give the public the idea that my mind is made up on certain issues before I step into the courtroom. This would be both unfair and inaccurate.

I would invite you or anyone in your organization to talk with any attorney or any other person who has appeared in my court about my judicial temperament, my work ethic, my commitment to fairness, and my ability to serve as a judge. I remain committed to the oath of office that I took as an attorney, as a prosecutor, and as a judge – to support, maintain, and defend our federal and state constitutions.

I hope this letter finds you well.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ripley Rand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Ripley Rand
Superior Court Judge