

MESSAGE PLATFORM

BAR LEADERS

Special interests are pouring enormous amounts of money into judicial campaigns by producing and airing negative television commercials that threaten to undermine public confidence in judges. Bar associations monitor campaigns to ensure that campaigns are conducted in a way to help keep courts fair and impartial.

Judicial campaigns should be conducted in such a way as to educate voters while at the same time minimizing the influence of campaign money.

Judicial campaigns are different. Judges do not represent constituencies like legislators and executive branch officials do. Judges are beholden to the law.

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a Minnesota case in which the First Amendment rights of an individual judicial candidate are weighed against the right of a litigant to be heard by an impartial judge. However the Supreme Court balances free speech and the right to an impartial judiciary, responsible citizenship, consistent with the exercise of free expression, should be the rule, not the exception.