

JUDGE COLLEEN  
**O'BRIEN**  
FOR MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

July 9, 2012

TO: ALL COUNTY and DISTRICT CHAIRS  
BOBBY SCHOSTAK, STATE CHAIR  
RICHARD STUDLEY, President, Michigan Chamber of Commerce

I felt it appropriate to respond to the very negative, misleading and inaccurate letter you may have recently received from one of my opponent's supporters, William LaBre. In his letter Mr. LaBre, whom I have never met nor spoken to, suggests that I am not a true Republican because I purchased tickets to three Democratic events over the past 18 years. On two of these occasions, I did so as a favor in response to requests from friends who were selling tickets. On the third occasion, in 2009, I attended a banquet honoring a colleague on my Court, Judge Mark Goldsmith.

As judges, we cross party lines on occasion when a member of our bench is being honored. For example, when I was honored by the Oakland County Republican Party at their Salute to Justice in 2011, several of my colleagues, including three Democrats, purchased tickets and attended to show their support, even though it meant writing a check to the Oakland County Republican Party.

Mr. LaBre also recklessly stated that I have made no contributions to the Republican Party. If he had taken the time to research the records of Oakland County, he would have found contributions to the Oakland County Republican Party and Republican candidates, including L. Brooks Patterson and Mike Bouchard, **both of whom are endorsing me for Supreme Court.** Further, my husband and I have donated to many other Republican candidates and Conservative judicial candidates dating back to the early 90's. These contributions greatly exceed the 3 nominal ticket purchases Mr. LaBre references.

I am running for the open seat on the Supreme Court to ensure that there is a Conservative majority after the November 8 election. I **strongly** believe in the Rule of Law and the Separation of Powers as provided in our Nation's Constitution. I have a fourteen year reputation as a Conservative, Rule of Law judge. My opinions and work ethic speak for themselves. It is also important to note that I was endorsed by the Oakland County Republican Party when I ran for Circuit Court in 1998, and appeared on their slate. (I ran unopposed in the subsequent elections.)

The day after my election in November, 1998, then Governor John Engler appointed me to replace a Judge who had recently passed away, so that I could take office immediately, rather than wait for my term to begin in January.

I am proud to be endorsed by many outstanding Conservatives such as our Chief Justice Bob Young, Justice Mary Beth Kelly, former Chief Justice Clifford Taylor, former Governor John Engler, former Attorney General Mike Cox, Congressmen Dave Camp, Mike Rogers and Tim Walberg, Congresswoman Candice Miller and dozens of Republican District and County Chairs, as well as other grassroots Republicans throughout Michigan.

As my campaign has gained substantial momentum over the past months, many supporters have cautioned me that my opponent may resort to political mudslinging in an attempt to attract support. I am deeply disappointed that this has occurred in a campaign for such an esteemed and honorable position. I hope that the remainder of the campaign for this distinguished office will focus on the real issues, so that we can nominate a true Constitutional Conservative who can, and will, defeat the extremely liberal candidates which the Democrats have nominated for Supreme Court.

As you know, our Founding Fathers envisioned a Judiciary that is above politics, leaving the "party politics" to the Executive and Legislative branches. This is why Judicial elections are Non-Partisan. It saddens me to see a Judicial race, especially one for the highest court in our state, degenerate into a contest over who wrote the most checks for party candidates. I'm quite sure it would sadden our Founding Fathers as well.

I hope that if you have any concerns you will feel free to contact me at [judgecolleenobrien@gmail.com](mailto:judgecolleenobrien@gmail.com). I look forward to your support at the September Convention, and suggest that you visit my website at [www.colleenobrien.org](http://www.colleenobrien.org) for further information on my background, judicial philosophy and endorsements.

I look forward to seeing you as I continue to campaign across our beautiful state.

Sincerely,



Judge Colleen O'Brien

cc: Hon. Robert P. Young, Jr., Chief Justice  
Hon. Stephen J. Markman, Justice  
Hon. Mary Beth Kelly, Justice  
Hon. Brian K. Zahra, Justice  
Hon. Jane E. Markey, Judge, Court of Appeals