

FILED

FEB 03 2021

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPREME COURT
COURT OF APPEALS

Special Committee on Judicial Election Campaign Intervention

2020 Judicial Elections

Public Statement No. 3

Pursuant to Canon 5F(6)(b) of the Mississippi Code of Judicial Conduct, the Special Committee on Judicial Election Campaign Intervention releases this public statement.

Canon 5C(4) requires candidates and candidates' committees to timely comply with all provisions of law requiring the disclosure and reporting of contributions, loans and extensions of credit.

The Committee to Elect Latrice Westbrooks to Supreme Court Justice (hereinafter referred to as the Campaign Committee) failed to file its periodic campaign finance report that was due on January 8, 2021, in violation of Canon 5C(4) and Mississippi Code Annotated sections 23-15-805 and 23-15-807. *See also* Opinion of the Mississippi Attorney General, No. 2010-0035, *Hillman*, 2010 WL 2795651 (Miss. A.G. June 17, 2010). Judge Westbrooks was provided notice of and opportunity to respond to the complaint of the failure to file the January 8, 2021 periodic campaign finance report. However, Judge Westbrooks failed to provide any response.

Additionally, the Campaign Committee's periodic campaign finance report that was due on October 9, 2020, was filed late on October 13, 2020; the periodic campaign finance report that was due on June 10, 2020, was filed late on June 18, 2020; and the periodic campaign finance report that was due on July 10, 2020, was filed late on July 14, 2020. Further, the Campaign Committee's pre-election report that was due on October 27, 2020, was filed late on October 29, 2020. As stated, the Mississippi Code of Judicial Conduct requires that candidates and their campaign committees timely comply with all provisions of the law that require the disclosure and reporting of contributions, loans and extensions of credit. *See* Mississippi Code Annotated section 23-15-801 et seq; *see also* *Mississippi Secretary of State 2020 Campaign Finance Guide* at 7, 10-11 and *Campaign Finance Schedule* (2020 Judicial reporting schedule) (links to pdf documents available at sos.ms.gov under the Elections & Voting/Campaign Finance and Lobbying/2020 Elections tab).

This Public Statement will be immediately released to Mississippi media outlets and to the Secretary of State for appropriate action. *See* Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-15-811 and 23-15-813.

Any questions should be in writing and directed to the following:

Special Committee on Judicial Election Campaign Intervention

ATTN: Rachel Wilson

Executive Director

Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance

660 North Street, Suite 104

Jackson, MS 39202

Telephone: (601) 359-1273

Email: Wilson@mcojp.ms.gov