LWV-WI Highlights Judicial Independence and Integrity

Written by League of Women Voters Wisconsin Friday, 30 April 2021 10:26 -



6th anniversary of US Supreme Court ruling in the William-Yulee case reminds us that our judiciary system must remain nonpartisan.

MADISON, WI - Six years ago today, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a powerful ruling to highlight the need to achieve and maintain integrity in our courts, leaving no room for interpretation for how judicial candidates can and should campaign for judicial office.

The case, <u>William-Yulee v. Florida Bar (2015)</u>, centered around petitioner Lanell William-Yulee (Yulee), who mailed and posted an online letter soliciting financial contributions to her campaign for judicial office. The Florida Bar disciplined her for violating a Florida Bar Rule, but Yulee contended that the First Amendment protects a judicial candidate's right to personally solicit campaign funds in an election. The Florida Supreme Court upheld the disciplinary sanctions, concluding that rule is narrowly tailored to serve the State's compelling interest, which The United States Supreme Court later affirmed.

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