

Letter to the Columbus Dispatch Editor:

We write this letter in support of Judge Carole Squire who is being judged by the Columbus Dispatch prior to the presentation of facts from both sides. Of 51 elected Judges in Franklin County, including the Ohio Supreme Court Justices, Judge Squire is the only African American Judge serving on the bench in Franklin County endorsed by the Franklin County Democratic Party. Of the 51 Judges, fewer than ten were endorsed by the Franklin County Democratic Party when elected to the bench.

It is a fact that we often mistrust accusations against any African American until the facts are presented and we are ever mindful and guarded in considering motives. The pages of history are filled with miscarriages of justice that are known and only God knows the number that are unknown. We are encouraged to disbelieve what our own eyes witness; such as the televised beating of the elderly black man in New Orleans and the Rodney King beating, and believe these two men were the cause for the inhumane, brutal and Unfair treatment inflicted upon them.

We write to pronounce our outrage at the Dispatch coverage of Judge Carole Squire. We the undersigned clergy have known Judge Carole Squire for years. She has spent her 27 year legal career fighting for the rights of the poor, the disfranchised, abused, neglected and dependent children. She began her career here in Columbus as an Ohio Legal Rights staff attorney in the juvenile unit. The Ohio Legal Rights Services is a state agency which provides services to mentally ill, mentally retarded and developmentally disabled Ohio residents. Judge Squire has a consistent, strong record, throughout her life, as a staunch Protector and advocate for children and others entrusted to her care.

Judge Carole Squire is a Christian lady of integrity who happens to be a judge. She not only talks the talk, she walks the walk in our midst and we respect her today No less than we did prior to the uncomplimentary Columbus Dispatch coverage. As long as we have known her she has stood for what is true, right and just and fought for truth and justice. Based upon our dealings with her over the years, we do not believe if all the facts and truth were known, that Judge Squire would be found to have abused or to have failed to listen to anyone, (as circumstances permitted ) or denied anyone the right to an attorney. We do not believe that Judge Squire would knowingly, deliberately mislead or be untruthful in her dealings with others as the October 11, 2005 Dispatch article by Dispatch reporter Mr. Kevin Mayhood may lead some to believe.

Mr. Mayhood fails to quote anyone in the article to support the allegations against Judge Squire. When the truth is known, based upon our dealings with Judge Squire, we have faith, as does she, that she will be vindicated.

Judge Squire is up for reelection in 2006. Petitions for 2006 judicial candidates are available at the Board of Elections in a couple months. We are aware of the struggles between the Democrats and Republicans. It is our hope that Judge Squire will not be judged by one party only, but will be judged fairly. As leaders in the Columbus faith community, we write this letter of support for Judge Carole Squire to publicly state that we stand with Judge Squire during these days and in the hope that future Dispatch articles will be balanced, fair and accurate with the search for truth the goal.