

## **MCCORMACK A-1**

### **Instructions:**

In a recent video advertisement supporting Michigan Supreme Court judicial candidate Bridget McCormack, several cast members of the show *The West Wing* reunited to expound upon the candidate and, in general, voting in the non-partisan ballot, which typically includes judges. The YouTube link is available on the Turtle Talk. I'm interested in what you think of McCormack's ad in light of the following ethical canons:

#### **Canon 1**

##### **A Judge Should Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary**

An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining, and enforcing, and should personally observe, high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved. A judge should always be aware that the judicial system is for the benefit of the litigant and the public, not the judiciary.

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#### **Canon 7**

A candidate, including an incumbent judge, for a judicial office:

- (a) should maintain the dignity appropriate to judicial office, and should encourage family members to adhere to the same standards of political conduct that apply to the judge.

MICHIGAN CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT. Assume that judicial canons also apply to candidates for judicial office (trust me, they do).

Using the materials here and under the MCCORMACK link, complete the following assignment:

- Identify two arguments in support of the proposition that candidate McCormack violated the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct.

- Identify one argument in support of the proposition that candidate McCormack did not violate the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct. Explain how this argument is weaker than the two arguments favoring your position.

## **MCCORMACK A-2**

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