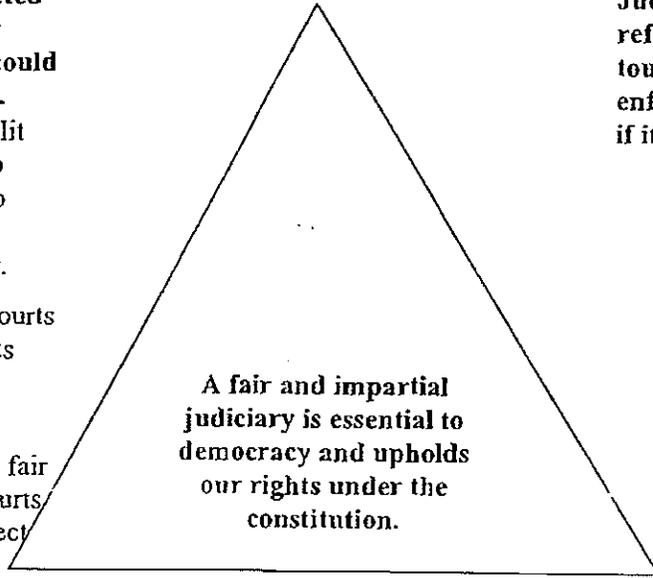


MESSAGE PLATFORM ON A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUDICIARY

Our founders protected courts from political influence so judges could protect our freedom.

- The founders split government into different parts to protect us from abuses of power.
- In our system, courts consider the facts and the law, not politics.
- We must defend fair and impartial courts so they can protect our rights.



A fair and impartial judiciary is essential to democracy and upholds our rights under the constitution.

Judges are like referees. They make tough decisions and enforce the rules, even if it is unpopular.

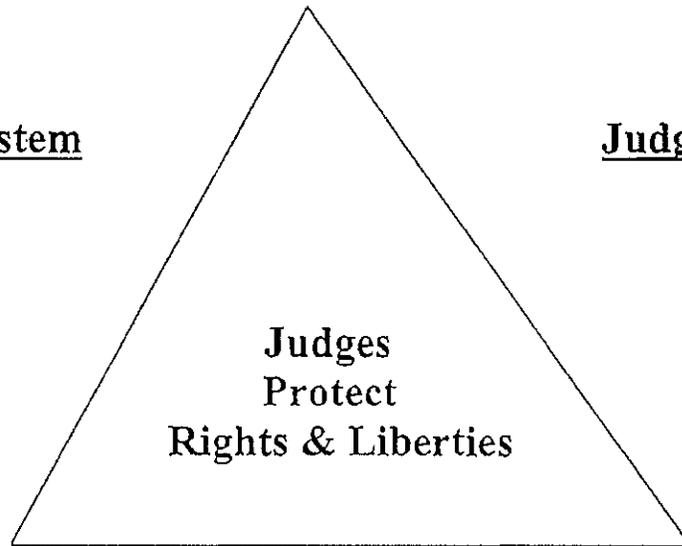
Judges *are* accountable.

- Checks and balances apply to all parts of government, including courts.
- Decisions can be appealed.
- Judges are subject to ethics rules and codes of conduct.

- Just like with refs, we do not want judges who can be bought, bullied or fired when someone is unhappy with a decision – it would make the whole justice system break down.
- When people disagree with a decision, it can be appealed.

Protect Judicial System

- *provide stability in society
- *change law, not judge
- *ethics/discipline for judicial misconduct



Judges have to be Different

- * No constituency
- * Impartial
- * Decide cases brought to them

Ensure Public Trust & Confidence

- No special interests
- No high priced elections
- Better public awareness

MESSAGE PLATFORM

BAR LEADERS

Special interests are pouring enormous amounts of money into judicial campaigns by producing and airing negative television commercials that threaten to undermine public confidence in judges. Bar associations monitor campaigns to ensure that campaigns are conducted in a way to help keep courts fair and impartial.

Judicial campaigns should be conducted in such a way as to educate voters while at the same time minimizing the influence of campaign money.

Judicial campaigns are different. Judges do not represent constituencies like legislators and executive branch officials do. Judges are beholden to the law.

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a Minnesota case in which the First Amendment rights of an individual judicial candidate are weighed against the right of a litigant to be heard by an impartial judge. However the Supreme Court balances free speech and the right to an impartial judiciary, responsible citizenship, consistent with the exercise of free expression, should be the rule, not the exception.