



XV. WHY BECOME A JUDGE

**PRESENTED BY:
JUDGE MARK A. SPEISER**

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- **I. SALARY CONSIDERATIONS**
 - **II. CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**
 - **III. ADDRESSING THREATS AND PROTECTION**
 - **IV. MEDIA AND PUBLICITY**
 - **V. MEDIA RELATIONS**

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- **VI. FAIRNESS**
 - **VII. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**
 - **MINIMUM OF 30 CREDIT HOURS EVERY 3 YEARS**
 - **2 OF THE 30 HOURS MUST BE ON JUDICIAL ETHICS**



- **VIII. INAPPROPRIATE JUDICIAL BEHAVIOR**

- **WILL RESULT IN APPEARANCE BEFORE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION (JQC)**

- **SANCTIONS**

- **PRIVATE REPRIMAND**

- **PUBLIC REPRIMAND IN FRONT OF SUPREME COURT AND PUBLISHED IN LEGAL AND PUBLIC PERIODICALS**

- **SUSPENSION AND FINE**

- **REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**



–DECISIONS MADE IN GOOD FAITH HOWEVER, NORMALLY NOT GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE

- LEGAL ERROR**
- JUDICIAL MISINTERPRETATION**
- JUDICIAL INVENTIVENESS**

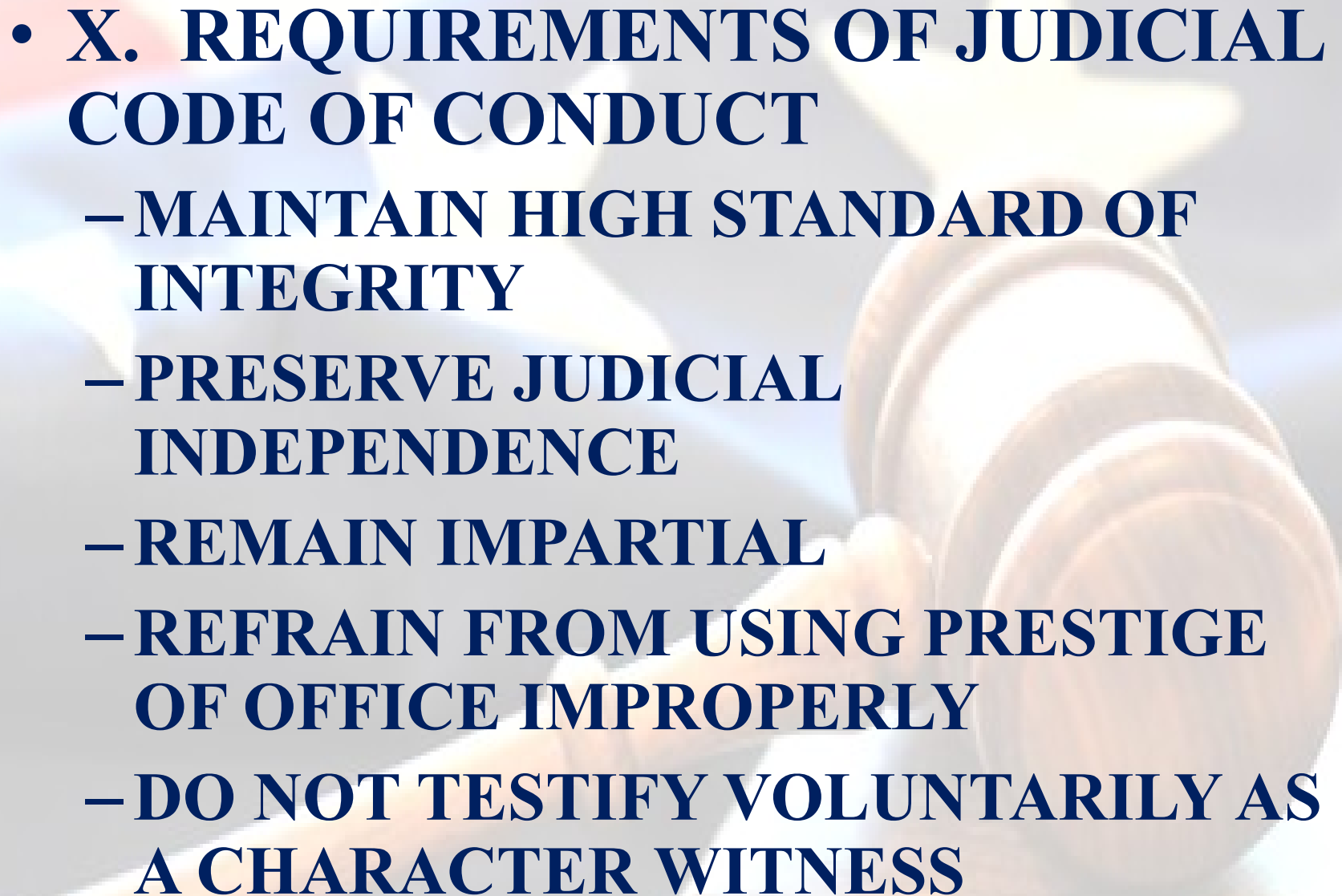
– EXAMPLES OF JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT

- **PREJUDICE OR BIAS**
- **IMPROPER MOTIVES FOR DECISION
(RETALIATION, REVENGE, PERSONAL GAIN,
GOOD PRESS)**
- **BAD TEMPER, VERBAL ABUSE**
- **FLAGRANT DISREGARD FOR BASIC RIGHTS**
- **COMPLETE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF
LAW**
- **REFUSING TO COMPLY WITH CLEAR LEGAL
PRECEDENT**
- **RUDE, NASTY BEHAVIOR**
- **PARTICIPATING IN FUNDRAISING**

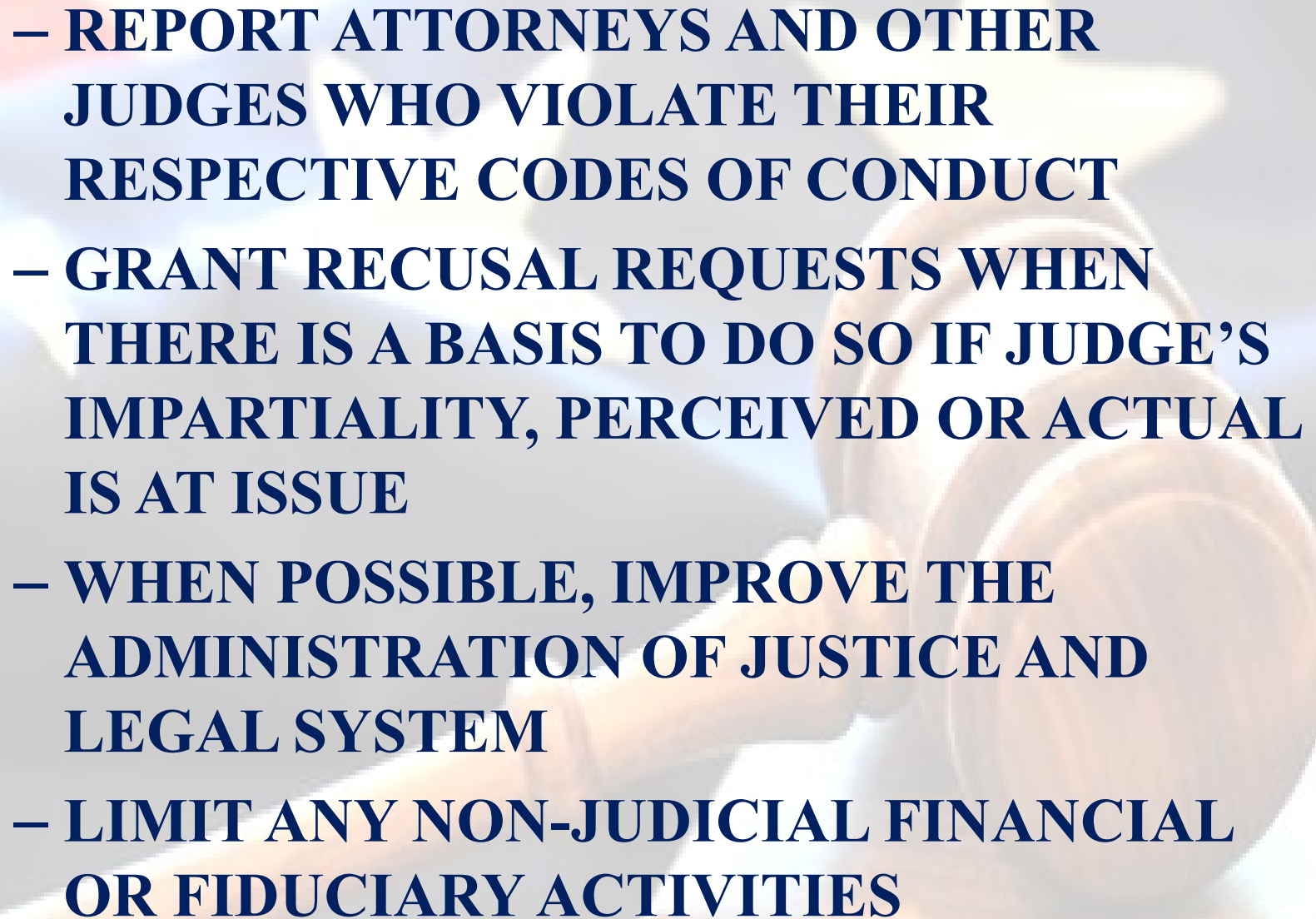
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- **INVOLVEMENT WITH PARTISAN POLITICS**
 - **PROVIDING CHARACTER REFERENCES**
 - **EX-PARTE COMMUNICATIONS**
 - **ALCOHOL/DRUG PROBLEMS**
 - **UNDUE DELAYS IN ENTERING RULINGS**
 - **EMBARRASSING BEHAVIOR OUTSIDE COURTROOM**
 - **ARREST**

- **IX. JUDGES SHOULD NEVER ACCEPT GIFT, COMPENSATION OR BENEFITS THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED TO INFLUENCE OR GAIN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE**
 - **ANNUAL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS ARE REQUIRED DETAILING GIFTS, SOURCES OF INCOME, AND ANY BUSINESS INTERESTS**

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- AVOID MEMBERSHIP IN ANY ORGANIZATION THAT DISCRIMINATES BASED UPON RACE, RELIGION, SEX OR CULTURE**
 - DO NOT BE INFLUENCED BY PUBLIC OUTRAGE OR FEAR OF CRITICISM**
 - MAINTAIN COURT DECORUM**
 - BE PATIENT, DIGNIFIED AND COURTEOUS IN OFFICIAL CAPACITY**

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- **X. REQUIREMENTS OF JUDICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT**
 - **MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARD OF INTEGRITY**
 - **PRESERVE JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE**
 - **REMAIN IMPARTIAL**
 - **REFRAIN FROM USING PRESTIGE OF OFFICE IMPROPERLY**
 - **DO NOT TESTIFY VOLUNTARILY AS A CHARACTER WITNESS**

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- PREVENT LAWYERS FROM USING INAPPROPRIATE WORDS, GESTURES OR CONDUCT**
 - DO NOT PUBLICLY COMMENT ON A PENDING CASE THAT MIGHT EFFECT THE OUTCOME**
 - NEVER COMMENT ON OR CRITICIZE A JURY VERDICT**
 - AVOID NEPOTISM AND FAVORTISM IN JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS**

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- A hand holding a wooden gavel against a background of a scale of justice. The gavel is positioned diagonally across the frame, with the head resting on a surface. The scale of justice is visible in the background, with its two pans and central pillar. The overall scene is brightly lit, with a soft glow around the gavel and scale.
- REPORT ATTORNEYS AND OTHER JUDGES WHO VIOLATE THEIR RESPECTIVE CODES OF CONDUCT**
 - GRANT RECUSAL REQUESTS WHEN THERE IS A BASIS TO DO SO IF JUDGE’S IMPARTIALITY, PERCEIVED OR ACTUAL IS AT ISSUE**
 - WHEN POSSIBLE, IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND LEGAL SYSTEM**
 - LIMIT ANY NON-JUDICIAL FINANCIAL OR FIDUCIARY ACTIVITIES**



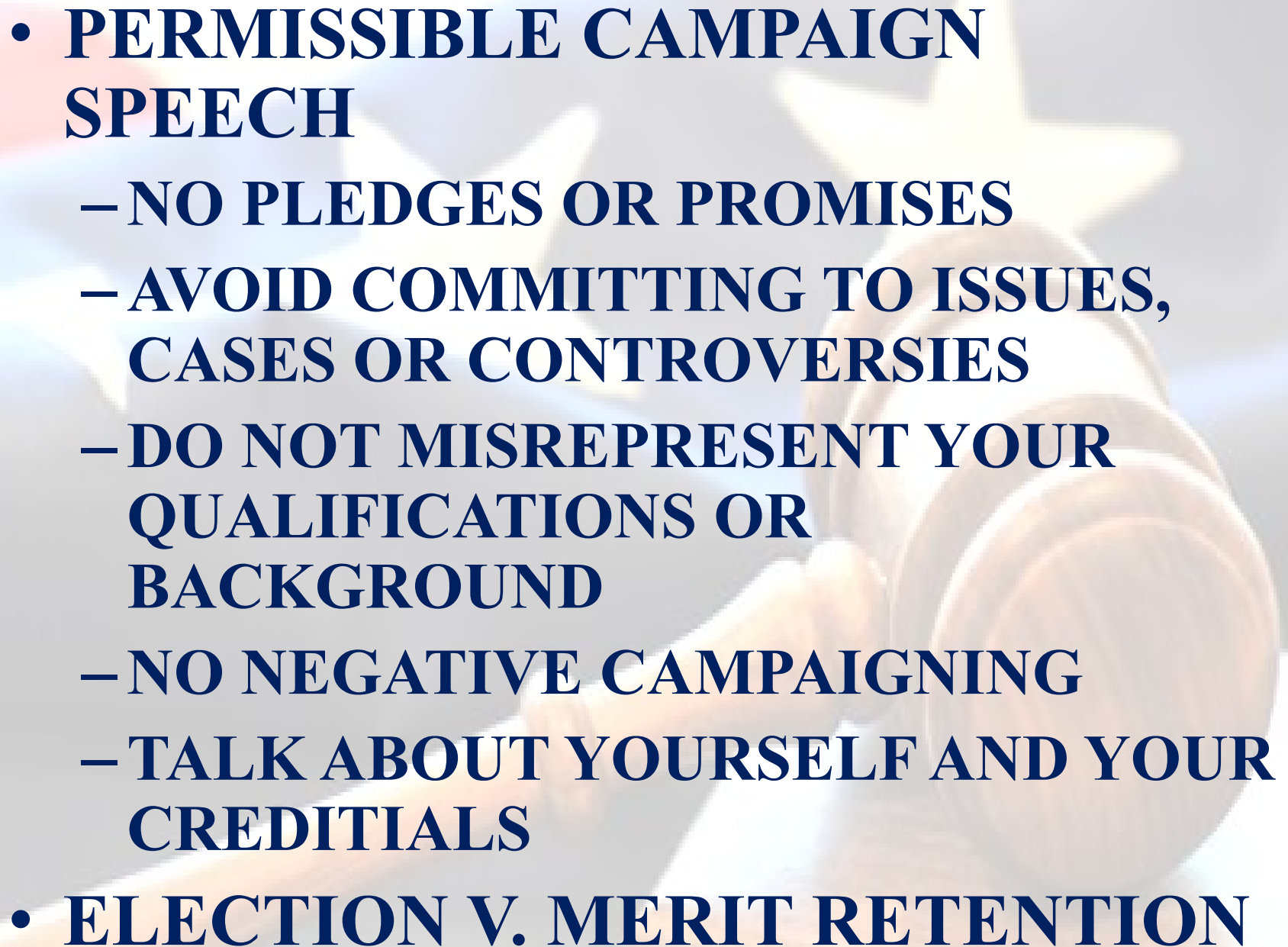
- **XI. JUDICIAL ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING**

- **FILING FEE**

- **4% OF SALARY (APPROX. \$5,700)**

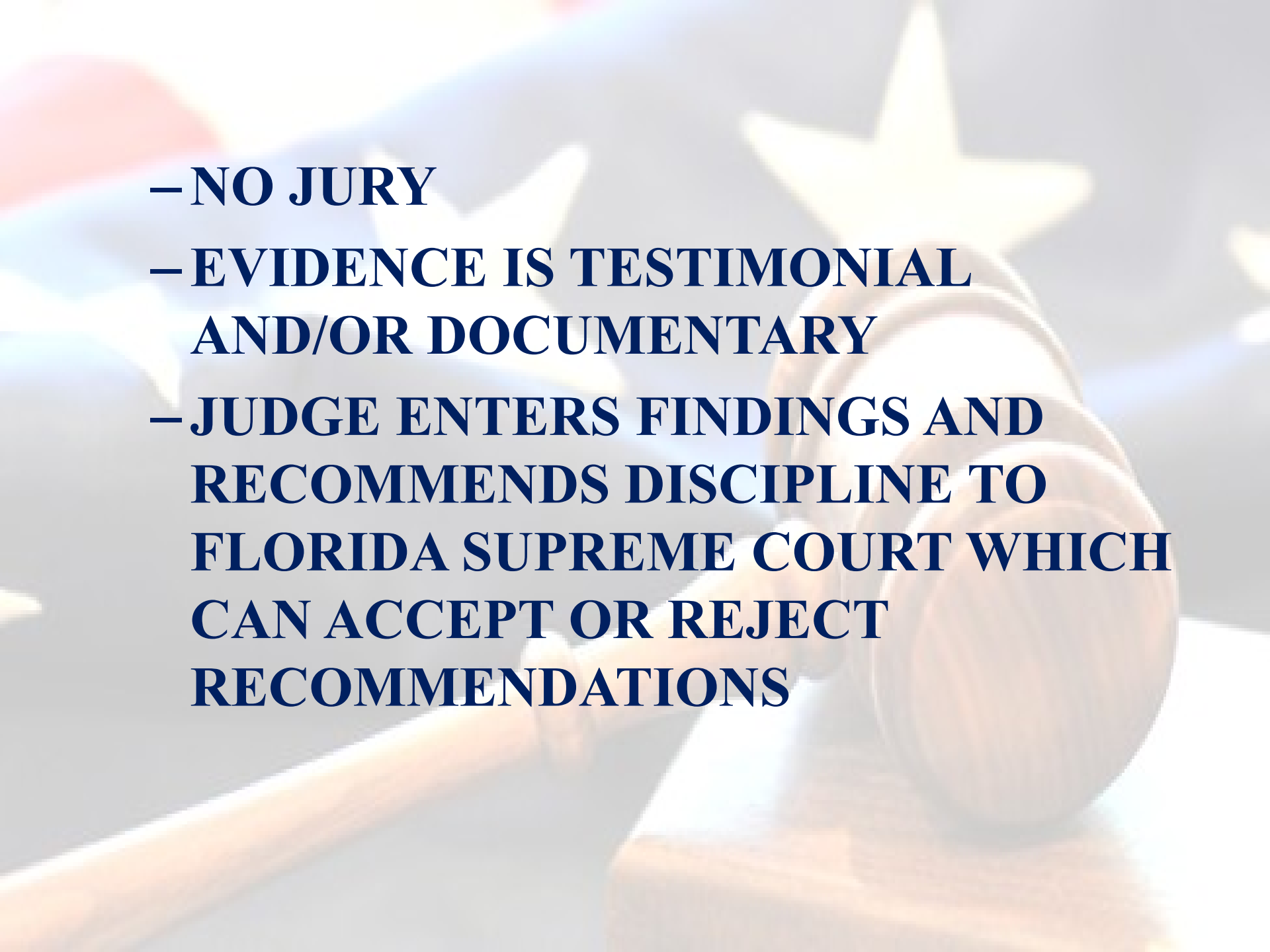
- **COST OF CAMPAIGN AND HOW CONDUCTED**

- **FUNDRAISING CONSIDERATIONS**

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- **PERMISSIBLE CAMPAIGN SPEECH**
 - **NO PLEDGES OR PROMISES**
 - **AVOID COMMITTING TO ISSUES, CASES OR CONTROVERSIES**
 - **DO NOT MISREPRESENT YOUR QUALIFICATIONS OR BACKGROUND**
 - **NO NEGATIVE CAMPAIGNING**
 - **TALK ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CREDENTIALS**
 - **ELECTION V. MERIT RETENTION**

- **XII. JUDGE SERVING AS BAR REFEREE**
 - **APPROX. 101,000 LICENSED LAWYERS IN FLORIDA**
 - **66.% MALE**
 - **33.5% FEMALE**
 - **OCCURS AFTER BAR GREIVANCE COMMITTEE FINDS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE LAWYER IS GUITLY OF MISCONDUCT JUSTIFYING DISCIPLINARY ACTION**
 - **FLORIDA BAR BOARD OF GOVERNORS REVIEWS GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FINDING**

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- IF BOARD OF GOVERNORS AGREES, IT FILES COMPLAINTS AGAINST LAWYER AND SUPREME COURT ASSIGNS A CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE TO SERVE AS REFEREE**
 - BAR REPRESENTED BY STAFF COUNSEL AND ACCUSED LAWYER MAY RETAIN COUNSEL OR REPRESENT SELF**

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- NO JURY**
 - EVIDENCE IS TESTIMONIAL AND/OR DOCUMENTARY**
 - JUDGE ENTERS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDS DISCIPLINE TO FLORIDA SUPREME COURT WHICH CAN ACCEPT OR REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS**

SANCTIONS:

- **ADMONISHMENT OR PRIVATE REPRIMAND**
- **PROBATION FROM 6 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS**
- **PUBLIC REPRIMAND REPORTED IN JUDICIAL REPORTER, BAR NEWSLETTER AND PUBLIC MEDIA**
- **SUSPENSION**
 - **LESS THAN 90 DAYS**
 - **MORE THAN 90 DAYS**
- **DISBARMENT FOR 5 YEARS**
- **PERMANENT DISBARMENT**

YEAR ENDING 2009

- **44**
- **3**
- **34**
- **120**
- **61**
- **24**

A wooden gavel is positioned diagonally across the frame, resting on a wooden block. The background is a blurred American flag, with the stars and stripes visible. The text "THE END" is centered in a dark blue, serif font.

THE END