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**BEFORE THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE FLORIDA JUDICIAL
QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,

No. 12-551

DEBRA L. KRAUSE

SC _____

_____/

NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES

TO: The Honorable Debra L. Krause
Seminole County Judge
Criminal Justice Center
101 Bush Blvd.
Sanford, Florida 32773-6707

The Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, at its meeting of April 12, 2013, by a vote of the majority of its members, pursuant to Rule 6(f) of the Rules of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission and Article V, Section 12 (b) of the Constitution of the State of Florida, finds that probable cause exists for formal proceedings to be instituted against you. Probable cause exists on the following formal charges:

1. While you were a candidate for Seminole County Judge, Group 2, in 2012 you appeared at a Seminole County Republican Executive Committee fundraiser. A letter from Al Schwartz, Chairman of the Seminole County Republican Party, describes the event as an important political event because it enables the Party to raise money to be used for campaign activities. You then donated \$250.00

from your campaign account to purchase a table which entitled you to speak for 3 minutes as a candidate.

2. *You had previously unsuccessfully campaigned for Seminole County Judge in 2010. At that time you created a website, "Krause4Judge.com" that links to your facebook page, that listed your affiliation to the Republican Party and displayed Republican artwork and logos. You only sought to remove those items when you qualified for the 2012 judicial race.*
3. On June 21, 2012, while a judicial candidate, your name appeared as a "Lincoln" level sponsor of the Seminole Republican Women Club of Florida Journal. That newsletter promoted the SRWCF Elephant Charge, which was described as a "Hob Nob with candidates and elected officials." It was an opportunity to "Mingle with your good Republican Friends and enjoy good food."
4. Section 106.143(6) requires that candidates who are not incumbents include the word "for" between the candidate's name and the office being sought. This you failed to do as illustrated in the attached Exhibits A, B, and C.
5. During your campaign for County Judge, you either contributed or loaned your campaign at least \$82,100 from April 19, 2012 to October 19, 2012. However, in the Form 6 "Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests," you declare that you have \$16,300 in the asset category you describe as "Cash Checking Savings Accounts." The only other assets you declare that would have a value in excess of \$1000 are household goods and personal effects valued at \$25,000 and "Law Offices of Debra Krause P.A." valued at \$25,000. The income you declare for 2011 is \$19,250." The assets and income that you disclosed are insufficient to fund the level of contributions and loans declared on

your campaign treasurer's report. In fact the contributions your list as loans from the candidate were actually cash contributions from your husband's separate personal accounts and from his separate law office accounts. These contributions were violative of sections 106.07, 106.08, and 106.14, Florida Statutes.

The foregoing conduct, if proved as alleged, also constitutes inappropriate conduct and violates Canons 1, 6B, 7A(1), 7A(3) and 7C(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, and sections 106.07, 106.08, and 106.14, and 106.143(6) Florida Statutes.

You are hereby notified of your right to file a written answer to these charges within twenty (20) days of service of this notice upon you. The original of your response and all subsequent pleadings must be filed with the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court, in accordance with the Court's requirements. Copies of your response should be served on the undersigned Special Counsel for the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and the General Counsel of the Commission.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2013.

**INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE FLORIDA
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

By: 

MICHAEL L. SCHNEIDER
General Counsel
Fla. Bar # 0525049
1110 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
(850) 488-1581

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Formal Charges has been furnished by e-mail to Larry Gibbs Turner, 204 West University Avenue, Suite 7, Gainesville, Florida 32601, counsel for The Honorable Debra L. Krause, on this 3rd day of December, 2013.



MICHAEL L. SCHNEIDER
General Counsel