

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

00-O-0392

IN RE: JUDGE PAMELA TAYLOR JOHNSON

**ON RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE
FROM THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA**

JOHNSON, J., Concurring

I write separately to fully explain my position regarding the charge that Judge Johnson committed ethical wrongdoing as the result of material misstatements of fact in an application for a drug court planning grant. The charge stems from the listing of several elected officials in Baton Rouge as “stakeholders” in a federal drug court planning grant application, allegedly without their knowledge or consent.

The grant application at issue was submitted to the U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs’ Drug Courts Program on November 29, 1996 and titled “Proposal for a Juvenile Drug Court Planning Grant.” The grant application contained several supporting documents, including a Detailed Budget Worksheet and a Program Narrative. Under Section III of the Program Narrative, twenty-four (24) “stakeholders” or community partners were identified.

The list of “stakeholders” was taken from the list of persons who were invited to and, either attended, or sent a representative to attend, one or more of the meetings of the Juvenile Justice Community Task Force (“Task Force”). Their names were included based on a good-faith belief that they had agreed to participate in the program and supported the Task Force, which was organized to deal with juvenile justice issues. Considering Judge Johnson’s good-faith belief that the persons listed had agreed to participate in the drug court planning process, the time constraints in applying for the grant, and the fact that Judge Johnson did not actually prepare the program narrative, I do not agree with the majority’s conclusion that these persons were listed without their knowledge or consent.