



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FINDINGS IN THE COMPLAINT OF
KEVIN REILLY V. VIRGINIA PEARSON
COMPLAINT 2003-1

Fair Campaign Practices for the Capital Region, Inc. (FCP) held a hearing on October 20, 2003 to consider a complaint made by Judge Kevin Reilly against Judge Virginia Pearson. Present were Hearing Panel members Elizabeth Angle, Elizabeth Smith-Holmes, James Miller, Eugene Rowland, and Patricia Somerscales and Coordinator Betsey Swan.

In lieu of appearing personally, the parties stipulated to the facts, which are as follows. Both parties are running for the office of Town Justice in Coeymans. Judge Reilly is the incumbent Coeymans Town Justice and Judge Pearson is the sitting Village Justice in the Village of Ravena. In September, 2003, Judge Pearson's son and daughter designed, purchased, and erected lawn signs that read,

JUDGE PEARSON
Town of Coeymans
JUSTICE.

In September, after the lawn signs had been erected, Judge Pearson amended the lawn signs to read,

Elect JUDGE PEARSON
Town of Coeymans
JUSTICE.

Judge Reilly complained that Judge Pearson's signs, as originally erected, were misleading because the failure to contain words such as *elect* or *for* created the false impression that Judge Pearson was an incumbent.

FINDING: NO UNFAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICE. Had Judge Pearson failed to amend her signs promptly, she would have committed an unfair campaign practice. Campaign