



**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY | ANTHONY F. GOLIK**

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**SCOTT D. JACKSON**  
Chief Deputy

**RACHAEL ROGERS**  
Chief Criminal Deputy

**TAYLOR B. HALLVIK**  
Chief Civil Deputy

**GAYLE HUTTON**  
Administrator

**CCPA ACTION AND REFORM COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS MADE BY  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DARVIN ZIMMERMAN**

March 17, 2021

Hate, bias, and intolerance must be eradicated from the courtroom. As prosecutors, our role is to promote equitable justice, at all times, which includes speaking out against injustices when we see them.

The Judicial Code of Conduct states that "A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety."

The comments by Judge Zimmerman regarding Kevin Peterson Jr. were deeply troubling. His comments show that he cannot be impartial and unbiased; therefore, we agree with the others who have spoken out on this issue, he is not qualified to remain a judge.

We support the statements from the Clark County District Court Bench, Vancouver Defenders, the Clark County Bar Association, and the NAACP Vancouver.

Because impartial equitable justice cannot happen in Judge Zimmerman's courtroom, we support Mr. Golik's decision to move to disqualify him from all pending matters that our office is handling.

We commit ourselves to continuing to educate ourselves, and others, on the ongoing issues of systemic racism and bias within the justice system and Clark County. We encourage our community, and especially those in the legal community, to seek out educational opportunities and resources to better understand these complex and layered issues.

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Deborah Wechselblatt  
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney & Chairperson  
CCPA Action and Reform Committee