

Mr.. Kearns:

As a relatively new member of the judiciary committee, I can tell you that it is my understanding from speaking to more senior members that we do not act on impeachment petitions filed by private citizens. We only act on such petitions filed by members. As I'm sure you can appreciate, if the state legislature were to begin actual impeachment proceedings against judges every time a private citizen filed a petition, we would soon be swamped with thousands of petitions filed by litigants unhappy with a particular judge's rulings in individual lawsuits.

Further, we have no subpoena power and lack many of the powers (not to mention the time) we would need to do extensive fact finding in cases such as these.

I don't know the facts of your situation, but my advice is this: If you believe you have evidence that a judge acted improperly, you can contact the Judicial Discipline Committee of the State Supreme Court. Keep in mind, "improper" judicial conduct is not simply a judge ruling the wrong way. It involves actual corruption, such as bribery. In order to get the Discipline Committee to act, you will need to present compelling evidence. Best of luck.

Representative Daylin Leach

Subject: judicial corruption and impeachment