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Supreme Court judge candidate visits here

Meg Heaton Hudson Star-Observer
Published Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Burnett County Circuit Court Judge Mike Gableman was in Hudson last week to campaign for election to a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He is challenging incumbent Justice Louis Butler, who was appointed to the court in 2004 by Gov. Jim Doyle.

Gableman has been a judge since 2002 and prior to that served as district attorney in Ashland County and as an assistant district attorney in both Marathon and Langlade counties. He also has private practice experience and serves as an adjunct professor at his alma mater, Hamline University School of Law.

Gableman describes himself as a judicial conservative, a philosophy he says puts him in stark contrast with his opponent, Butler, a former defense attorney.

Gableman said he believes in the fair application of “the plain language of the law.”

“It is the job of a judge to apply the law as written, not to

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Judge Mike Gableman

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According to information provided by the campaign, Gableman has received bipartisan endorsement from 52 Wisconsin sheriffs, 37 district attorneys and 22 police chiefs. He is also endorsed by the Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association and Wisconsin Right to Life.

Gableman said the job of a Supreme Court judge is that of a public servant who must earn and work to maintain the trust of the people. The judge said he has worked throughout his career to find creative and effective ways to address issues like drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and restorative justice.

“There can be creativity in addressing these issues in our communities but not when it comes to the administration of the court.”

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has seven justices who are elected to 10-year terms in statewide, non-partisan elections. Vacancies are filled by gubernatorial appointment and the appointee is required to stand for election to a full 10-year term the following spring. The Wisconsin Constitution limits justices to running one at a time. This year’s election is April 1.

For more information on Judge Gableman go to www.gablemanforsupremecourt.com.



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