STEELE/WYATT TRT: 2:52

Date: 2/2/12

Reporter: Morgan Simpson

Shooter: Morgan Simpson

Type: PKG

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| Anchor/OC | (ANCHOR). A LOCAL JUDGE IS FACING ALARMING ACCUSATIONS FROM A GROUP OF MISSOURI STATE REPRESENTATIVES THAT COULD RESULT IN HIS IMPEACHMENT. REPORTER MORGAN SIMPSON HAS THE STORY. |
| VTRVO:  | EARLY LAST WEEK REPRESENTATIVE ZACHARY WYATT SPONSORED A HOUSE RESOLUTION THAT COULD INVOKE THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST CIRCUIT JUDGE RUSSELL STEELE. HOUSE RESOLUTION 3-3-3 MAKES A LARGE NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS INCLUDING PERJURY, THREATENING MEMBERS OF THE MISSOURI BAR, AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT. THE BILL IS CO-SPONSORED BY FOUR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES. WYATT SAYS HE FILED THE RESOLUTION BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE OFFICE.  |
| SOT :7**CG: Zachary Wyatt, State Representative**  | “We have to…”“…that office highly.”  |
| VO:  | THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME STEELE HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF MISCONDUCT, HAVING FACED ALLEGATIONS IN 2006. STEELE, WHO HAS HELD THE OFFICE OF CIRCUIT JUDGE SINCE 1997, DENIED TO COMMENT - BUT IN A PRESS RELEASE SENT OUT LAST THURSDAY, HE STATES BOTH CASES ARE POLITICAL ATTACKS DURING AN ELECTION YEAR.  |
| SOT :6**CG: Russell Steele, Circuit Judge** | “I’m not surprised…”“…this year’s election.” |
| VO:  | WYATT SAYS HE WOULD NOT CONSIDER THESE ALLEGATIONS TO BE POLITICAL. HE ALSO SAYS THE RECENT ACCUSATIONS ARE DIFFERENT THAN THOSE FROM 2006.  |
| SOT :14**CG:**  | “I would suggest…”“…ever came of them.” |
| VO:  | STEEL STATES WYATT IS GOING OUTSIDE THE PROPER CHANNELS IN FILING THE RESOLUTION. NORMALLY COMPLAINTS ABOUT JUDGES GO THROUGH THE COMMISSION OF RETIREMENT, REMOVAL AND DISCIPLINE OF JUDGES. THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATES ALL COMPLAINTS AND IS IN CHARGE OF DISCIPLINE IF NECESSARY.  |
| SOT :10 | “This is an unprecedented and extraordinary political attack on a member of the judiciary and ignores the well established process that is in place to consider complaints against judges.” |
| VO:  | THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATED THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STEELE IN 2006 AND DROPPED THE CHARGES. DISTRICT TWO VOTERS ALSO HAD THEIR SAY.  |
| SOT :6**CG:** | “In 2006 the…”“…bogus allegations.” |
| VO:  | WYATT SAYS THE DECISION TO GO AROUND THE COMMISSION AND FILING THE RESOLUTION WAS NOT EASY . WYATT HAS BEEN LISTENING TO COMPLAINTS MADE BY CONSTITUENTS AND RESEARCHING PUBLIC DOCUMENTS CONCERNING STEELE FOR MONTHS. ACCORDING TO WYATT, STEEL MADE AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE WYATT AFTER FINDING OUT ABOUT HIS RESEARCH.  |
| SOT: 14 | “It was pretty much…”“…should respect him.” |
|  | IN ORDER FOR THE RESOLUTION TO INVOKE THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT THE BILL WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH THREE STAGES. ALL EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY WILL BE REVIEWED BY A HOUSE COMMITTEE. THE RESOLUTION WILL THEN MOVE TO THE HOUSE FLOOR. IF IT IS VOTED OUT OF THE HOUSE. THE BILL WILL GO TO THE MISSOURI SUPREME COURT WHO WILL DECIDE WHETHER STEELE SHOULD BE IMPEACHED. FOR NEWS36 AND THE TRUMAN MEDIA NETWORK I’M MORGAN SIMPSON.  |