

The Monroe Evening News Editorial

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### **Judge was biased in Whitman case**

#### Webmaster note:

Facts and references are available 24 hours a day at:  
[www.bedfordwatch.com](http://www.bedfordwatch.com)

In response to Gene Stock requesting the "Facts" regarding the Whitman versus Bedford Township legal case, I believe he asked legitimate questions, but more "Facts" should be revealed.

In my opinion, this lengthy and costly legal case was tainted from the start with personal and legal agenda that should have been addressed before the case entered the first phase of litigation.

Why was it not questioned that Judge Joe Costello, who ultimately ruled against the general public interest in favor of Mr. Whitman's zoning request, recuse himself from hearing this case? Both Joe Costello and the Whitman family are very closely associated both financially and actively with Monroe County Community College and leave reasonable doubt for a conflict of interest. Does not this mutual personal tie indicate reason for Judge Joe Costello to excuse himself from hearing this case due to a possibility or question of conflict of interest?

When so many people and an entire portion of our county is affected by Joe Costello's decision, is it too much to expect legal stewards to do the right thing and be free of question of conflict of interest and step aside allowing for others to render unbiased decision?

Regardless of which side of this legal case you agree with, the truth, at least in my view, is that justice was not served and the only thing that has been accomplished is the transfer of monies from both parties to a legal system at best that serves only themselves.

Mr. Stock alludes to why The Monroe Evening News does not do more investigative reporting, which will never occur because they do not deem this as being their role in our community and would rather serve as The Weekly Reader. If they wish to start investigative journalism, they can start in my opinion by reminding Judge Joe Costello to try and attempt at restoring faith in our legal

system by resigning his bench as he said he was doing last year to teach at MCCC.

Pat McElligott  
Monroe

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