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## PRESS STATEMENT

February 26, 2020



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## The LLBC Joins the NAACP in Calling for the Immediate Resignation of Judge LeBlanc

Baton Rouge, Louisiana – After verification of all the facts, as well as Judge Jessie LeBlanc’s, own admission that she has in fact used racial slurs and has participated in behavior unbecoming of a Judge elected to serve the people. The LLBC is requesting that she immediately resign from her position as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District court judge effective today, February 26, 2020. Should Judge LeBlanc refuse to resign, we respectfully request that the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana immediately conduct an investigation without delay. Each member of the judiciary takes an Oath of Office swearing to “administer justice without respect to persons.....so help me God.”

The constituents of the 23<sup>rd</sup> District and the citizens of our great state deserve a judiciary who will passionately uphold this Oath of Office and continue to administer justice and equality for all individuals regardless of race or ethnicity. We adhere to the belief that “Justice is Blind” which speaks to our commitment to administer justice and equality with impartiality and fairness. Senator Jimmy Harris, the Chairman of the LLBC stated, that “too often we have seen justice dispensed in Louisiana based on race or ethnicity. Such behavior will no longer be overlooked or tolerated in our great state. With this in mind, the LLBC has worked diligently in connection with the NAACP, community leaders, public advocates and civil rights attorneys to break down the historical and systemic racial biases that have resulted in the unfair dispensation of justice in our judicial system. It is now incumbent upon us and others, who represent Louisiana to make certain that the historical strides made to ensure a fair and impartial judicial system are not forfeited.”

The LLBC believes our silence renders us complicit in such unjust and illegal behavior. Senator Edward Price, the LLBC legislator of District 2 stated, “we have heard from the people of this area and Judge LeBlanc’s admission, consequently, I join with my colleagues and those in my district in requesting her resignation.”

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*Established in 1977, the primary purpose of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus is to raise the quality of life for those underrepresented, the indigent and working people through legislation, education and economic development.*