

CATHOLIC JUDGE BASHED BY DUI LAWYER

In August, Florida attorney Loring Spolter formally petitioned the U.S. District Court seeking the recusal of U.S. District Judge William Zloch on the grounds that the judge exercises religious bias.

If anyone wants to see anti-Catholicism in action, keep an eye on Loring Spolter—the man is still at large. Ironically, Spolter's affidavit not only failed to detail a single instance of religious bias on the part of Judge Zloch, it offered concrete proof of his own bigotry.

Spolter was angry that Zloch has a close association with Ave Maria Law School, a Catholic law school in Michigan (it will move to Florida in 2009). Specifically, he was upset that two of the judge's three clerks are Ave Maria graduates and that Zloch has contributed to the law school.

Spolter thought he had a slam dunk case by citing the following—to him indictable—information: Ave Maria adheres to Pope John Paul II's encyclical letter "Fides et Ratio" (Faith and Reason), and it promises a "distinctive legal education" that is "characterized by the harmony of faith and reason." Worse, Spolter argued, Ave Maria addresses "moral truths" and even has the audacity to emphasize "the inherent dignity of every human being stemming from our creation in the image and likeness of God and raised to a new level of our redemption in Jesus Christ."

When Joe McCarthy played his infamous guilt-by-association card, he at least got it right when he identified communist cells as evil. By contrast, Spolter's attempt to demonize Ave Maria—and by extension Judge Zloch—is laughable. In any event, it would be instructive to know if Spolter, who unlike

McCarthy is Jewish, thinks it's kosher for Jewish judges to hire clerks from Yeshiva University and to make contributions to the school.

Spolter needs to take a more sober approach to his work and go back to doing what he does best—defending drunken drivers from their accusers.