

From: [Christopher Bonjean](#)
To: [John Kraft](#)
Cc: [Kirk Allen](#); [James Brunner](#); [Morgan Yingst](#)
Subject: RE: Request for comment
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 9:15:50 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

John,

That did not come from the Supreme Court Communications Office or the Fifth Circuit Chief Judge's Office.

Thanks,

Chris

From: John Kraft <john@illinoisleaks.com>
Sent: Monday, September 1, 2025 5:54 PM
To: Christopher Bonjean <cbonjean@IllinoisCourts.gov>; James Brunner <jbrunner@IllinoisCourts.gov>; Morgan Yingst <myingst@IllinoisCourts.gov>
Cc: Kirk Allen <Kirk@illinoisleaks.com>
Subject: Request for comment

Communications Department,

I am requesting a comment on the "alleged" Official Statement regarding our posting of the police reports of the Edgar County Judge who was charged with DIU in Charleston, Illinois.

The only question I am seeking comment on is "*Did the communications department or any other official or employee of Illinois Courts or the Fifth Judicial Circuit in Coles County or other counties publish this statement*" – it is presented as a legitimate statement from the court. (see screencap below).

Thanks,

John Kraft

Edgar County Watchdogs

john@illinoisleaks.com

The Boathouse Johnny's Gone Fishing's post



The Boathouse Johnny's Gone Fishing

August 29 at 8:00 AM · 🌐 · ⚙️



OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING FALSE CLAIMS SURROUNDING THE HONORABLE JUDGE
MATTHEW SULLIVAN
AUGUST 29, 2025

Upon administrative review of the available body camera footage and associated law enforcement documentation regarding the August 16, 2025, arrest of the Honorable Judge Matthew Sullivan, it has come to our attention that several statements circulating on social media and in fringe publications are factually inaccurate, misleading, and potentially defamatory.

Specifically, the claim that Judge Sullivan stated, "I'm a judge with the circuit. I'm just hoping to get off," is entirely false. At no point during the recorded interaction did Judge Sullivan utter those words or make any reference to his judicial position in a manner suggesting preferential treatment. This fabricated quote has been irresponsibly attributed to him without an evidentiary basis and is being propagated by sources with a known history of sensationalism and disregard for journalistic integrity.

The publication known as Illinois Leaks, operated by Edgar County Watchdogs (ECWd), has presented this quote as fact despite acknowledging that their article was based on written police reports and partial video access, not fully verified footage. Their failure to produce the complete video record while asserting conclusions constitutes reckless disregard for truth and may give rise to claims of libel under Illinois law.

We urge members of the public and media to exercise discernment and refrain from sharing unverified claims. The judicial system relies on integrity, due process, and factual reporting, not conjecture or character assassination.

A formal review is underway, and any further statements will be issued through the Office of the Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit, Coles County. Until such time, we ask that all parties respect the presumption of innocence and the standards of professional conduct that govern both the judiciary and the press.

End of Statement

