

TRUE DIALOG.ORG

Restoring Authenticity in our Democracy

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For Immediate Release

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ETHICS COMMISSION CHAIR UNQUALIFIED TO SERVE

Jean Ginn Marvin Failed to Disclose Office on “Think Tank” Board

PORTLAND, MAINE, July 2, 2007 – True Dialog.org Founder Carl Lindemann today called for the Governor, Senate President Edmonds and Speaker of the House Cummings to launch an investigation into Ethics Commission Chair Jean Ginn Marvin’s conduct.

Ginn Marvin failed to disclose crucial information when she applied for service on the Commission. This information, had it been disclosed at the time, may have disqualified her for such service. Since her appointment, she apparently engaged in fundraising for a ballot initiative in her role as Treasurer of the Maine Heritage Policy Center (MHPC) Board of Directors. Such activity is specifically prohibited to Commissioners.

“Ethics Commission Chair Ginn Marvin’s failure to disclose that she served on the MHPC board is disturbing. As a matter of basic fairness, this should have disqualified her. How can she judge others for properly disclosing such ties when she has failed to do so herself? This does not meet the standard we would expect from someone serving on the Ethics Commission,” said Lindemann.

Lindemann says that while the problems with Ginn Marvin began in the application process, her conduct while serving on the Commission is even more disturbing and requires a full investigation.

“The public deserves to know whether Ginn Marvin engaged in prohibited activities and, if so, the full extent of it. An investigation should also determine whether having an unqualified Ethics Commission Chair tainted its proceedings,” Lindemann said.

Lindemann also requested that, in the future, Ethics Commissioners be required to fill out the same kind of annual disclosures required of legislators.

Prior to becoming the Ethics Commission Chair, Ginn Marvin served on the Maine Legislature for six years representing House District 121 (Cape Elizabeth).

Lindemann’s organization, True Dialog.org, was recently founded in Portland with a mission “to encourage and empower citizens to demand authenticity in public life”.

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