

## COINS TOSSING JUDGE ASSAILED BY PANEL

NEW ORLEANS, June 19 (UPI)—The Louisiana Judiciary Commission has recommended disciplinary action against a Baton Rouge city judge accused of ruling on cases by the flip of a coin.

The commission recommended actions such as censure and suspension that the Louisiana Supreme Court could take against Judge William Hawk Daniels, but cleared him of willful misconduct, saying his actions were without illegal, immoral or evil intent.

The panel said some of Judge Daniels's unorthodox courtroom practices, such as tossing coins to give the appearance of deciding cases, "brings the judicial office into disrepute." Other unorthodox practices included an incident in which Judge Daniels allegedly polled court spectators, including a Cub Scout group, on what his verdict should be.

The judge acknowledged the coin-tossing incidents, but denied he based his rulings on the outcome of the tosses. But the commission said his conduct "was such as to give the appearance of so deciding cases."

The commission also criticized the judge for imposing fines based on the amount of money a convicted party had in his pocket and for creating an air of frivolity in the courtroom by the use of slang.

Friend  
Whitell  
Pntm