

Judge Haggerty Censured by N.O. Chamber

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The Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area has censured Judge Edward Haggerty Jr. and called for his immediate resignation.

The Board of Directors yesterday made public a resolution characterizing as "reprehensible" the Criminal District Court judge's participation in a stag party raided by the police vice squad Dec. 17.

His conduct "tends to bring discredit to the criminal judges of this state . . . raises public doubts as to Judge Haggerty's ability to administer fairly and impartially the criminal laws . . . (and) tends to affect adversely the public morals and provides a bad example for this region and state," the resolution states.

Haggerty was found innocent of charges of soliciting for prostitution, obscenity and resisting arrest by fellow judge Matthew S. Braniff.

"Apart from the disposition of criminal charges against Judge Haggerty, we believe his conduct was reprehensible," the resolution said.

"It appears to violate the canons of Judicial Ethics prescribed by the Louisiana Supreme Court (which requires) that a judge's personal behavior, not only upon the bench and in the performance of judicial duties, but also in his everyday life should be beyond reproach and . . . (that) it is essential for a judge to conduct himself in a temperate manner," the resolution said.