

## Removal of Haggerty Is Backed by Panel

The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana today filed a brief with the Louisiana Supreme Court supporting the removal of Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr., charging the judge's public misconduct "is so seriously delinquent as to bring disgrace and discredit upon the judicial office. . . ."

The brief was filed by Robert E. LeCorgne Jr., chief executive officer and attorney for the commission. A hearing before the high court is scheduled for Oct. 7 at 11 a.m.

The brief said the judge's misconduct was found "related" to his official duties in its violation of criminal laws the judge has sworn to uphold.

**IT STATED** that evidence

shows without doubt Judge Haggerty planned and attended a "stag" party at the DeVille Motel Dec. 17, 1969, to which he took prostitutes and obscene movie pictures. He was acquitted of criminal charges on these points.

The brief charged the judge with excessive absence from court, tardiness, "irregular" drinking and gambling habits and open associations with criminals.

The commission stressed in its brief that no one incident by Haggerty inspired the case against him.

**"CONSIDERING** all of the evidence, not in isolated incidences but as a cumulative pattern of the judge's conduct, it shows that his conduct and

behavior is such to bring discredit upon himself, the position he holds and the judiciary as a whole and to cause the public to lose confidence in himself as a judge and in the judiciary as a whole.

"All of this conduct as well as his participation in illegal gambling activities and acts of obscenity warrant the recommendation by this commission that he be removed from office."

As a judge of the Criminal District Court, the brief contends, Judge Haggerty must preside over trials in which persons are charged with gambling and obscenity offenses.

**"HOW CAN A judge who**

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# Haggerty

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himself participates in these illegal activities fairly and justly decide such cases?" the commission asked.

Among evidence it cited alleged admissions by Judge Haggerty that he associated with "such people as Manuel Soto, a bookmaker, Ferdinand Carr, who collected bets from others to take to the race-track in New Orleans, which incidentally is a criminal offense, and Frank Occhipinti, an admitted business associate of Carlos Marcello."

It said it has evidence the judge helped plan the stag party where he was arrested Dec. 17 on vice charges and that he contributed to expenses of the party.

**IT CHARGED HE** brought three women to the party knowing they were prostitutes and that he participated in the showing of lewd and obscene motion pictures.

Regarding the judge's courtroom habits, the commission accused him of frequently arriving from 30 minutes to two hours late and being absent from the bench on court days.

Pointing out that the DeVille Motel is located 11 blocks from the Criminal Court Building, the commission also linked the judge to that motel in a charge he spends from two to four afternoons and evenings a week drinking in the DeVille's public bar.

**"SOTO OPENLY** conducted an illegal gambling operation in the DeVille bar," the brief contended. "The respondent judge regularly and frequently, openly and publicly placed bets on horse races with this handbook operator, as well as observed with seeming condonation various other associates and bar patrons doing so also."

Before the Oct. 7 hearing by the Supreme Court, Haggerty's attorneys will file a brief in reply to the commission's brief.