

March 22, 2007

Professor Ken Gormley
Duquesne University School of Law
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Dear Professor Gormley:

Thank you for your kind invitation to the Carol Los Mansmann Award for Distinguished Public Service honoring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. Justice Alito is certainly an appropriate nominee given his public service to the State of New Jersey as Attorney General and on the Bench of the U.S. Circuit Court for the Third Circuit.

Though I would have liked to attend this prestigious event, I am declining the invitation. At the present time I feel it would be inappropriate to lend the prestige of this Court to this event by my attendance as long as one of your cohorts in the teaching profession at Duquesne Law School continues his unfounded slanderous and libelous attacks on the Integrity of this Court. His latest attacks appear in the Beaver County Times dated February 22, 2007 in an article where the professor is quoted as stating that the seven Justices of this Court are "even more corrupt than the Legislature" and stating that the judicial compensation opinion was a "Judicial swindle."

While these statements may be the personal opinion of your colleague, they are charges that an attorney cannot make against the Supreme Court and its members without subjecting that attorney to possible sanctions by the Disciplinary Board. The charges appear to me to be clear violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct and therefore worthy of the Board's attention.

It is disgraceful that Duquesne Law School continues to provide the professor a Forum to make these charges. This Court has struggled to overcome the problems caused by the earlier impeachment of a former Justice of this Court. It is not helpful to our efforts where your colleague continues to level unfounded and baseless charges of criminal conduct towards this Court.

You may share these thoughts with whomever you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

s/

JUSTICE RONALD D. CASTILLE