

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SUPREME  
COURT

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Case No. 1-Fall-2016

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NICKIE CASHDOLLAR, CLAIMANT

v.

JACOB GOVEA, RESPONDENT

[October 19, 2016]

CHIEF JUSTICE HANNAH SIMMS delivered the opinion of the Court in which JUSTICE KATELYN BROWN, JUSTICE HOUSTON BRAGG, JUSTICE MARK BUTLER, JUSTICE GENTRY COLLINS, JUSTICE JANINE TATE, and JUSTICE TREVOR NICHOLS joined.

CHIEF JUSTICE HANNAH SIMMS writing for the unanimous court.

In a unanimous decision we found that Mr. Jacob Govea violated Election Act § X(A)(3). This provision states that “no campaign material, writing or paint, may be placed on the ground (e.g. sidewalks, roads, driveways) or living material.”

The evidence submitted by the claimant showed the use of sidewalk chalk by Mr. Govea for campaign purposes. Additionally, Mr. Govea told the court during the hearing that he did, in fact, write on the sidewalks with chalk during the election.

Because of Mr. Govea’s candor before the court in accepting responsibility for his actions the court decided to issue a warning in this case pursuant to Election Act § V(A)(1). Mr. Govea, and any future candidate that might contemplate the use of sidewalk chalk during a campaign, is hereby notified that those actions clearly violate the Election Act and could result in the revocation of candidacy and/or the nullification of votes. As Mr. Govea was not a top vote getter in the 2016 freshman senate election, a nullification of votes would have no affect on the outcome of the election. However, should a similar case come before the court in future where a candidate clearly and blatantly disregarded this rule, nullification of votes might be appropriate.