

# Disbarred lawyer is running against state Supreme Court justice who disbarred him

Seattle P.I.

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A lawyer disbarred by the Washington State Supreme Court has filed to run against the judge who wrote the 2010 opinion that disbarred him.

John “Zamboni” Scannell is challenging Supreme Court Justice Debra Stephens, who wrote for a 6-2 court majority that Scannell “engaged in a deliberate attempt to stonewall, prolong and ultimately defeat the disciplinary proceedings against him.”

The court’s action came after Scannell spent five years obstructing a Washington State Bar Association investigation of complaints against him.

The bar association’s hearing officer had recommended a suspension, but the justices decided on a more severe penalty of stripping Scannell of his license to practice law.

“He continues to assert his conduct is upright and characterized the entire disciplinary process as ‘fascist,’” Stephens wrote.

Scannell had faced a conflict of interest allegation for representing both a husband and wife charged with theft, not recognizing that the interests of his clients could diverge. He was accused of letting a suspended attorney improperly perform legal work using Scannell’s office and name.

At the time, [Scannell told The Seattle Times](#) that the Supreme Court’s disbarment of him was an “absolute travesty” and said he was the target of a conspiracy stemming from his filing a 2002 bar complaint against then-Attorney General Christ Gregoire. He contended that the AG failed to supervise her office closely enough, so that a deadline in a lawsuit was missed at a cost to the state of \$19 million.

The Supreme Court said his conduct “undermines the self-governing nature of the practice of law,” adding: “If all lawyers accused of misconduct were as intentionally uncooperative as Scannell has been, self regulation would be impossible.”

Even in the unlikely event he defeats Stephens, Scannell would not be able to don black robes: State law requires that Supreme Court judges be lawyers.

Scannell came by his nickname, “Zamboni John” by operating the Seattle Center’s ice-smoothing machine at Thunderbirds hockey games. He was fired from the job in 2001 for alleged safety violations. He had a long record of filing complaints including a suit against Seattle Center under the state’s Whistleblower Act.