

AMICUS TO THE NATIONAL LIBERTARIAN PARTY JUDICIAL COMMITTEE (JC)

RE: SUSPENSION OF LNC SECRETARY CARYN ANN HARLOS

IN FAVOR OF PETITION BY THOMAS L. KNAPP, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

To the members of the Judicial Committee:

The purpose of an “amicus curiae” (“friend of the court”) brief, according to the Sutherland Institute’s article on them, is to provide input, historical context, and outside information to the court – in this case, to the committee upon which you serve. I do write as, hopefully, a friend, and I will try to keep it brief, and my input is, specifically, outside information and historical context on an *undertone* to the charges against Ms. Harlos.

That undertone: The notion that Ms. Harlos is inherently hostile and “difficult to work with.”

Historically, I’ve found the opposite to be true.

I’ve known Ms. Harlos since no later than 2016 (we met in person for the first time at that year’s Libertarian National Convention), and she’s never been anything but friendly toward me even when we’ve had severe disagreements.

I’ve also worked with Ms. Harlos on a number of projects, including serving with her on two national platform committees, both of which she chaired (2018 and 2020). In all cases, I’ve found her to be diligent, professional, and always intent on working well with others to achieve the goals and objectives of the projects in question.

From that historical context, I must conclude – and offer my conclusion to you – that any hostility from, or difficulties with, Ms. Harlos in this instance stem from underlying causes that aren’t related to her personality or work ethic.

The explanation which I’d like to offer for your consideration is this one:

Ms. Harlos places extreme importance on adhering to objectively defined rules in pursuit of her goals, and the party’s goals.

I’ve watched her enforce the rules as a committee chair. I’ve seen her do so even when those rules didn’t necessarily dictate outcomes in keeping with her preferences. I’ve seen her do so in as friendly a manner as humanly possible. And I’ve seen her become stern and unyielding when the friendly approach didn’t work.

The current affair, in my opinion, stems from a Libertarian National Committee majority's anger at Ms. Harlos's insistence that they cease acting – in her strongly held, often and frequently expressed, opinion – in ways *contrary to the bylaws under which they operate*.

Determining whether the charges against Ms. Harlos, and her suspension pursuant to those charges, are justified is your job. Although I have an opinion, I won't attempt to do that job for you here.

I do hope, however, that you will compare her *actions* to theirs, and both to the party's bylaws, rather than allowing clashes of personality to influence your analysis. Both Ms. Harlos and the party deserve a careful, considered application of the rules, unbiased by who likes or dislikes who and why.

Best regards,

Thomas L. Knapp

Florida

LP Member Since 1996 | Former LNC Alternate | Former Judicial Committee Member | Former Platform Committee Member | Former Appointed Federal and Local Official