

FAIR ELECTION PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Decision Notification Form

ELECTION: Monroe County Executive

CANDIDATES: Cheryl Dinolfo
Sandra Frankel

CLAIMANT: Cheryl Dinolfo

DATE

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED: October 26, 2015

ITEM: A Television commercial that states “Cheryl Dinolfo: She may call herself an outsider, but she’s part of an administration that’s taken Monroe County in the wrong direction” The ad also states ...”and her husband is tied to the biggest bid rigging scandal in recent history.”

COMPLAINT: This complaint, which is attached to this decision, alleges a potential violation of:

- 1) I will conduct my campaign accurately and honestly. I will discuss the issues and participate in fair public debate with respect to my views and qualifications.
- 2) I will not engage in, permit or condone personal attacks upon the character of my opponent(s); nor will I engage in invasions of personal privacy unrelated to campaign issues.
- 4) I will not use or permit the use of any campaign material or advertisement, which uses quotations or images taken out of context and to misrepresent the other candidate or other candidate’s message.

DECISION: The committee finds that there are two parts of the complaint:

A. The statement that “Cheryl Dinolfo; she may call herself an outsider but she is part of an administration that has taken Monroe County in the wrong direction.” As a matter of law the County Clerk is separately elected and autonomous from the County Executive however both offices are administering departments in the county and must often in the public perception work together. The committee is not in agreement on the view

of this being a violation and therefore that part of the complaint is dismissed.

B. The television commercial that states “and her husband is tied to the biggest bid rigging scandal in history” together with the various visuals that appear on the ad is neither accurate nor honest and therefore a violation of Fair Campaign pledge 1 has been found to exist.

**DATE OF
DECISION:**

October 27, 2015

The *Fair Election Practices Committee* can be reached by phone at (585) 292-5750 ext. 11 or by mail in care of 120 Corporate Woods, Suite 240, Rochester, New York 14623.