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## Activist rips judge candidate over endorsement

BY STEVE ROTHHAUS

[srothaus@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:srothaus@MiamiHerald.com)

Conservative Christian activist Jack Thompson -- who once had to prove his sanity to the Florida Supreme Court -- isn't crazy about Robert Kuntz's candidacy for Miami-Dade Circuit Court judge.

Thompson is fuming that Kuntz, 50, an attorney who is an elder at Old Cutler Presbyterian Church in Palmetto Bay, sought and accepted an endorsement from Unity Coalition, a local Hispanic gay-rights group.

Kuntz's congregation is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America, a conservative religious wing that believes homosexual behavior is sinful and offers counseling to gay people who want to be straight.

"I'm not the homophobe people would paint me as," said Thompson, who also is a PCA elder.

"As a Christian, I've been loving to people who've disagreed with me on some gay-rights issues, who are gay. But as a Christian, I have a duty to act upon scripture as God gives me the light to act upon. And that's what I've done."

### PSYCHIATRIC TEST

Thompson, 58, is well-known for fighting what he considers indecency in music (2 Live Crew), video games (*Grand Theft Auto: Vice City*) and on the public airwaves (Howard Stern). During a trial two decades ago, the Florida Supreme Court ordered that he have a psychiatric evaluation -- which Thompson says he passed.

"As a result of this, I'm the only certified-sane lawyer in the state of Florida," said Thompson, who goes back a long way with Kuntz, a former Daily Business Review courts reporter.

In the early 1990s, Kuntz wrote an article about Thompson headlined, "Is This Lawyer Too Crazy to Practice Law?"

"Robert and I have a pretty long and interesting history," said Thompson, who is fighting to regain his law license after the Florida Bar accused him of inappropriate conduct and successfully lobbied for him to be disbarred in 2008.

Kuntz, now a law partner at Devine Goodman Rasco & Wells in Miami, is more direct about their relationship: "Mr. Thompson is a disbarred lawyer with a personal grudge against me and a long history of scurrilous attacks on members of our state's judiciary. That he would now attack me, if nothing else, puts me in good company."

"I am a Christian. Period. But, if I am honored with election to this office, I will take an oath to uphold *all* the laws of this state. And I will have to commit to fairness and justice for every single person, whatever his or her creed, beliefs or orientation," Kuntz said.

"Nothing about that conflicts with my identity as a Christian, as evidenced by the many fine judges of every faith now serving."

Stephen Clark, senior pastor at Old Cutler Presbyterian, said he has no problem with Kuntz's Unity Coalition endorsement.

"I would expect any member of our church who serves on the judiciary to interpret and apply the law as it stands," Clark said. "My feeling is that his having explained this to them, they saw his competence and integrity and endorsed him. I think very highly about Robert. For me, it's as simple as that."

Kuntz isn't the only candidate in the race actively courting the gay vote. SAVE Dade, the county's largest gay-rights group, has endorsed his opponent, Miami-Dade Assistant State Attorney Monica Gordo.

Also, both Kuntz and Gordo have recently spoken to the anti-gay-rights Christian Coalition of South Florida.

This week, Thompson asked Unity Coalition for a copy of Kuntz's endorsement questionnaire.

## **NO POSITION**

On the questionnaire, Kuntz never takes a direct position on gay marriage or adoption.

"I can say that I believe every human being is entitled autonomy, dignity and self determination and that these rights are protected by the United States Constitution and Declaration of Rights of Florida Constitution," Kuntz writes.

Regarding gay adoption, he writes: "I can say that I was adopted by my parents when I was a year old. Of all the interests and concerns I had throughout my childhood, my parents' sexuality was never one of them."

Unity Coalition Chairman Herb Sosa said he and his group were satisfied with Kuntz's responses both in writing and during an in-person screening.

"His answers were genuine and positions were something we were comfortable with," said Sosa.

He added that Kuntz was "the only judicial candidate who returned the questionnaire."

