

ROB SCHOFIELD: State Supreme Court Justice Paul Newby stepped over an important line that he should have stayed behind recently. In a speech in Wake County, Newby attacked his Democratic colleagues on the Court as quote 'AOCs.' That's a Republican slur referring to progressive New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Newby also pressaged President Trump's racist tweet against Ocasio-Cortez and three other Congresswomen of color by saying that critics of American policy should quote 'just leave the country.' In addition to being hateful and inflammatory, Newby's comments were completely inappropriate for a Supreme Court justice. The code of judicial conduct commands judges to conduct themselves at all times in quote 'a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.' And while code loopholes for activity related to campaigning may insulate Newby from disciplinary action, it doesn't make his behavior acceptable. The bottom line: If those who would serve as judges are unable to comport themselves with basic dignity, integrity, and propriety that has been traditionally associated with and expected from the judiciary, American democracy is in danger. Justice Newby should apologize. For NC Policy Watch, I'm Rob Schofield.