

News From:
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie



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LAKE ADVOCATES TO PROTEST FEDERAL JUDGE'S CLOSED-DOOR SESSION
ZOUHARY LOCKS OUT PUBLIC, GAGS DEMOCRACY

At 4:15pm this afternoon, Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie and other supporters of the Lake Erie Bill of Rights (LEBOR) will gather in the [Civic Center Mall](#), between Toledo Municipal Court and the Federal Courthouse, directly below U.S. District Judge Zouhary's office which overlooks the Mall, to insure the public is heard.

The purpose of the protest is to focus attention on Judge Zouhary's decisions to prohibit the sponsors of the Lake Erie Bill of Rights from defending their initiative passed by Toledo voters in February and to ignore arguments that get to the heart of the case regarding the constitutionality of LEBOR.

"Judge Zouhary is not only excluding the organization that wrote LEBOR, defended it against the Board of Elections efforts to keep it off the ballot and got it passed in February, he is also refusing to hear arguments supporting the rights of nature even though that is the crux of this case. He is limiting what the court will consider about the public's inherent right to legislate remedies when the government fails to protect them. He is not allowing the standard practice of filing publicly available motions, nor will reporters be present. He has placed his foot squarely on the neck of democracy and we are calling him on it," said Mike Ferner, ACLE coordinator.

LEBOR supporters will make their voices heard outside Judge Zouhary's window facing the Mall, at the rear of the Federal Courthouse.

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