



Hon. Michael E. Gans, Clerk of the Court
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse
111 S. 10th St.
St. Louis, MO, 63102
Delivered via e-mail

February 16, 2021

Dear Clerk Gans,

I write to inquire whether a formal complaint has been filed against U.S. District Judge Robert Pratt of the Southern District of Iowa for his unseemly comments to the Associated Press in a Dec. 29, 2020, [article](#) or if any other corrective action has taken place under 28 U.S.C. §§351 et seq. or the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings.

For your reference, Judge Pratt was quoted as saying: "It's not surprising that a criminal like Trump pardons other criminals. [...] But apparently to get a pardon, one has to be either a Republican, a convicted child murderer or a turkey."

According to the article, Judge Pratt was referring to pardons President Trump granted to his former campaign operatives, a Republican former U.S. House member and security contractors who were convicted of killing civilians in Iraq.

A formal complaint may not be necessary so long as the judge in question commits to not making similar prejudicial comments to the press in the future. I do believe it would be in the public interest, though, for the Chief Judge of the Southern District of Iowa or the Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals to make a public comment acknowledging that corrective action has taken place in light of the interview or that a formal complaint process is underway.

Thank you for your attention to the matter.

Sincerely,
Gabe Roth
Fix the Court