

Judicial reform organization calls for a judges' law

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A judicial reform group yesterday called for the drafting of a judges' law to root out unqualified judges.

Directed at the judiciary and legislature, this call comes in the wake of a number of incidents in recent weeks in which Taiwan High Court judges have been found to have consorted with prostitutes and met mistresses during office hours as well as being accused of involvement in collective bribery.

DELAYS

Attorney and executive director of the Judicial Reform Foundation Lin Feng-jeng (林豐景) said that although the judicial reform movement had sought the enactment of a judges' law to regulate judicial conduct and weed out unqualified individuals for years, its introduction had been delayed by legislative inaction and resistance from a substantial number of judges.

Lin said President Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九), the Judicial Yuan and the legislature should now push to overcome that resistance.

IMAGE UNDERMINED

Lin said the scandals involving a number of judges had seriously undermined the image of the judicial system in Taiwan.

Taiwan High Court Judge Yang Ping-chen (楊平陳) was suspended by the Judicial Yuan on Friday after investigators monitoring his cellphone calls found that Yang, who handled fewer cases than his colleagues for health reasons, was visiting prostitutes a few times a month during office hours.

GOOD LIFE

Yang, who was under investigation in a bribery case, owns luxurious houses in Taipei and spends a considerable amount of money and time collecting and trading Chinese antiques, investigators said. They doubted that such a lifestyle was possible on a judge's salary.

Investigators also determined that Taiwan High Court judges Tsai Kuang-chih (蔡光池) and Chen Jung-ho (陳宗和), who were detained last month and charged with bribery, often met with mistresses in restaurants or hotels during office hours and visited pubs and restaurants with hostesses.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2010/08/16](#)