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**Source:** By **JANE MUSGRAVE** Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

## DOUBLECLAIMS COULD BE TROUBLE

A **judge** and his wife have two properties with homestead exemptions.

Palm Beach County Circuit **Judge** Martin **Colin** is being asked to explain how he and his new wife can claim homestead exemptions on two separate homes.

The property appraiser's office has sent the couple a letter informing them they need to declare one residence by June 1 or lose both exemptions.

Except in the most unusual circumstances, married couples legally can't claim the \$50,000 exemption on two residences, said Pat Poston, director of exemptions for the appraiser's office.

**Colin** said Monday he was unaware of the restriction on the exemptions that would save him and his wife, Elizabeth Savitt, about \$1,000 each on their property tax bills. Having learned of the problem, he said he would address it.

"We live in both places," he said of his home in Atlantis and hers in Delray Beach. "If we're only allowed to homestead one, that's what we'll do."

Poston said the issue is slightly complicated because **Colin's** house in Atlantis is in foreclosure. Although court records indicate it is, **Colin** said it isn't. "I modified my **mortgage** but it's not in foreclosure," he said. He is also paying off a \$35,516 lien from the IRS for unpaid taxes in 2002.

The homestead exemption scrape is the latest skirmish in the long-running battle between **Colin** and his wife's ex-husband, Jay Gordon.

Gordon said he discovered that both were claiming the exemption and reported it last week.

The dispute between the two men began in 2001 when **Colin** represented Savitt in her divorce from Gordon. Savitt and **Colin** then began dating. Once **Colin** was elected to the bench, Gordon claims the **judge** used his influence over other jurists to keep him from the son he had with Savitt. Gordon has filed complaints against **Colin** with the Florida Bar, the Judicial Qualifications Commission and the state attorney, all to no avail.

**Colin** is also being transferred off the family court bench in south county -- something his detractors claim is punishment for his handling of the Savitt-Gordon divorce and that of Lewis Kasman, the self-proclaimed adopted son of late mob boss John Gotti.

**Colin** said he welcomed the move to probate court to replace **Judge** John Phillips, who has been transferred to Palm Beach Gardens. **Judge** Charles Burton, a criminal court **judge** in West Palm Beach, will replace **Colin**.

"It will be a new challenge," **Colin** said. "If I was appointed king, one or two people would

find that it was a demotion of some sort."  
~jane\_musgrave@pbpost.com

**Caption: Colin**

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