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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2009

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Transparency in Judicial Selection Process Moves Forward

(Jefferson City, MO) – Today, Better Courts for Missouri filed a Sunshine Law request under Missouri’s open records statutes to receive information regarding the judiciary’s partisan activities concerning court reform.

“Our efforts to add transparency to the Missouri Plan should be debated by our legislators and by the people of the State of Missouri,” said James Harris, Executive Director of Better Courts for Missouri.

It has come to our attention that members of the Court have been actively lobbying members of the Missouri General Assembly and state employees have been working in concert with attorneys who oppose this measure. This conduct is unbecoming of a judge and it is inappropriate to use public tax dollars to promote a political agenda.

“These modest changes to the Missouri Plan should not be actively opposed or supported by the judiciary using state monies,” Harris said.

The request seeks documents relating to ten (10) areas in which the judiciary may have made direct contacts to lobby legislators on House Joint Resolution 10 and Senate Joint Resolution 9, both of which are being debated in the Missouri General Assembly this year.

To schedule an interview with James Harris, Executive Director, Better Courts for Missouri, please contact him at 573-690-7870 or james@thejharriscompany.com.

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