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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2009

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Senate Committee Endorses Judicial Selection Reform

Today, the Senate Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee endorsed HJR 10 and will present it to the Senate for debate before the full body. This is the second judicial selection reform bill that the committee has approved this month, the first being SJR 9, a similar measure that was approved on April 2.

Upon approval of HJR 10, Representative Stanley Cox, the sponsor of the bill, stated, “I appreciate the Senate Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee’s endorsement of HJR 10. This commonsense legislation will bring needed transparency and accountability to a broken judicial nomination system, ensuring that our courts work for Missourians, not for an elite group of people.”

Better Courts for Missouri applauds the committee’s dedication to putting judicial selection reform on the ballot. James Harris, Executive Director of Better Courts for Missouri, stated, “While the members of the elite legal establishment think the system is fine, this is because it serves them financially while leaving average citizens out in the cold. This measure will give more power to the people by bringing the judicial selection process into the open and ending the back-room deals that are part of the system’s current model of Tom Pendergast-like wheeling and dealing.”

Better Courts for Missouri feels that being put on the ballot is the best part of the legislation: rather than being put into effect by the legislature, the bill will put people in charge of judicial selection reform and let them decide by voting whether to pass these reform measures or not. Putting these measures before the people is the responsible thing to do, as the courts are ultimately meant to serve the popular interest and the public should have the opportunity to have the final say in deciding on the implementation of reforms.

To schedule an interview with James Harris, Executive Director, Better Courts for Missouri, please contact him at (573)-761-7875, james@thejharriscompany.com

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