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## **Trial Lawyer Patronage Commission Rewards Nixon**

Jefferson City, Missouri – Governor Jay Nixon has appointed Karen King Mitchell, a longtime Nixon loyalist, to the Missouri Court of Appeals. Mitchell’s appointment came as a result of the supposedly non-partisan judicial selection process known as the “Missouri Plan”.

“Once again, we see how our judicial selection plan is extraordinarily politically charged. While the judicial commission sent Governor Blunt few choices who shared his judicial philosophy, Governor Nixon was given a panel made up entirely of Democrats, including a close personal friend, for this judicial appointment. This is not surprising, given Vanderbilt University Law School Professor Brian Fitzpatrick’s findings in a study done for the Missouri Law Review that “nonpartisan” selection commissions overwhelmingly lean Democrat. Clearly, the Missouri Plan only works if you like liberal Democrats in control of the judiciary,” stated James Harris, Executive Director of Better Courts for Missouri.

“This panel is clear evidence that our judicial selection system is broken and is in need of reform in order to avoid manipulation of our Courts by liberal special interest groups who seek to control the process for their own financial gain,” added Harris.

Better Courts for Missouri is a non-partisan organization committed to improving Missouri’s judiciary. For more information, visit [www.NewMOPlan.com](http://www.NewMOPlan.com).

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