

*better*  
**COURTS**  
**FOR**  
**MISSOURI**

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**THE CURRENT PROCESS IS AS POLITICAL AS IT COULD POSSIBLY GET**

1. It is **political** (*and the Sunshine Law does not apply to the political decisions*) – **this is why Missouri needs you to support judicial selection reform**
2. The decision-makers have strong **financial interests** (*in appointing “friendly” judges*)
3. They **never** stand before Missouri’s voters (*so they never have to justify their choice*)

**MATA and the Bar will try to tell you that the current iteration of the Missouri Plan is non-partisan and non-political, but the officials who have been picking judges for our highest courts most definitely are partisan and political.**

**So, who are some of the representatives on this “non-partisan” commission?**

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**1. Thomas M. Burke, Appellate Judicial Commissioner:**

Bar Member from the Eastern District and **MATA Member**. **Contributions include:**

\$1,000	5/1997	Nixon Campaign Fund
\$250	10/2003	Robin Carnahan for Missouri
\$500	12/2003	Holden for Governor
\$500	3/2006	Jay Nixon for Missouri
\$500	3/2007	Jay Nixon for Missouri
\$1,000	9/2008	Jay Nixon for Missouri

**2. John Woodell, Appellate Judicial Commissioner:**

Bar Member from Southern District, and a **Governor of MATA**.

\$250	11/2003	Nancy Farmer for U.S. Senate
\$1000	6/2004	<b>John Kerry for President</b>
\$250	8/2000	Ike Skelton for Congress Committee
\$333	8/2000	Carnahan for Senate Committee
\$934	2/2010	Robin Carnahan for Senate
\$733	2/2010	Robin Carnahan for Senate

**3. Jill Shurin, Appellate Judicial Commissioner:**

**Governor Holden’s appointee** to the Western District. Married to **prominent trial attorney Leland Shurin**, who is an **official member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum**, an extremely elite club of trial attorneys who have won million and multi-million dollar settlements against businesses. **Husband’s Contributions:**

\$1,000	2/2002	Mark Pryor for US Senate
\$1,200	6/2004	<b>Nixon for Attorney General</b>
\$1,200	11/2005	<b>Nixon for Governor</b>
\$300	9/2006	Page for Missouri
\$10,000	1/2007	<b>Nixon for Governor</b>
\$200	8/2007	People for Terry Stone
\$200	9/2007	<b>LeVota for Missouri</b>

**Her Contributions:**

\$2,000	3/2003	Gephardt for President
\$1,000	8/2003	Moore for Congress
\$1,000	9/2002	Moore for Congress

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*Contrary to the claims of reform opponents . . .*

**Improvements CAN be made  
to reduce the special interest politics in judicial selection.**