

CITIZENS FOR BETTER JUDGES

Press Release

September 1, 2010

Citizens for Better Judges (CBJ) announced its endorsements today in the contested judicial elections for Jefferson Circuit Court, Division 6 and Division 11, and for Jefferson District Court Divisions 3, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17. CBJ's endorsement for Jefferson District Court, Division 14 was announced prior to the contested primary election for that seat in May. (There were no other primary races for judicial seats in the May election.)

CBJ was organized in January, 1983, in an effort to maintain and improve the quality of the judiciary by promoting the election of only the most highly qualified judicial candidates. It consists of a 30-member Steering Committee made up of lawyers who are all involved in litigation practice but concentrate in different fields of law, and a Citizens Review Board consisting of a cross-section of community-minded citizens with diverse occupations and backgrounds. Additionally, the organization has an Advisory Board made up of the past chairs of CBJ.

Each candidate for judicial office is personally interviewed by the Steering Committee. After the interviews have been completed, the Steering Committee members consider the information obtained during the interviews and share their personal knowledge of the candidates. Lay members of the Citizens Review Board are present to monitor the interviews and the integrity of the endorsement process. The Citizens Review Board must approve the endorsements recommended by the Steering Committee.

The endorsement process was completed August 31, 2010. After a lengthy and rigorous evaluation of each candidate's qualifications for election to the bench, CBJ made the following endorsements for contested judicial races on the November ballot:

Jefferson Circuit Court, Division 6 – Hon. Olu Stevens
Jefferson Circuit Court, Division 11 – Hon. Brian Edwards

Jefferson District Court, Division 3 – Hon. Claude Prather
Jefferson District Court, Division 7 – Hon. Jennifer Wilcox
Jefferson District Court, Division 10 – Hon. Sheila Collins
Jefferson District Court, Division 11 – Hon. Sadiqa Reynolds
Jefferson District Court, Division 13 – Dee McDonald
Jefferson District Court, Division 14 – Stephanie Pearce Burke*
Jefferson District Court, Division 16 – *no endorsement*
Jefferson District Court, Division 17 – *no endorsement*

These candidates meet the high standards and demanding criteria established for endorsement by Citizens for Better Judges and, as a result, they are recommended to the electorate as the most qualified in the respective judicial race.

* Endorsed in the May primary election. The endorsement remains effective for the general election in November.

CBJ Officers for 2010 are:

Homer Parrent, III, Chair
Darryl W. Durham, Vice-Chair
Mark W. Dobbins, Secretary/Treasurer

Reginald A. Bruce, Ph.D. and Rev. Joe Graffis serve as Co-Chairs of the Citizens Review Board.

The members of the Attorney Steering Committee are:

Jennifer Kincaid Adams	Don H. Major
Douglas C. Ballantine	Michael R. Mazzoli
Melissa Norman Bork	Frank Mascagni, III
Matthew W. Breetz	Ann B. Oldfather
Bradley A. Case	Homer Parrent, III
Paul A. Casi, II	Susan D. Phillips
Mark W. Dobbins	John S. Reed
Frank P. Doheny, Jr.	Steven C. Schroering
Darryl W. Durham	Peter L. Schuler
Daniel T. Goyette	William E. Sharp
James P. Grohman	Lee E. Sitlinger, Jr.
Julie K. Hardesty	Larry D. Simon
Douglas Haynes	James U. Smith, III
Martin E. Johnstone	Robert E. Stopher
Edmund "Pete" Karem	

As previously noted, the members of the Citizens Review Board consist of a cross-section of community leaders from professional and service organizations, as well as from the fields of business, labor, government and education.

The members of the Citizens Review Board are:

J. Stephen Barger Kentucky District Council of Carpenters	Marvin J. Fisher BB&T Bank (Retired V.P.)
Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D. Clinical and Forensic Psychologist	Rev. Helen H. Jones, D.Min. St. Matthews Episcopal Church
Reginald A. Bruce, Ph.D. College of Business & Public Administration University of Louisville	Don R. Ison Governmental Affairs Consultant
Rabbi Chester Diamond The Temple	Eric Y. Drogin, J.D., Ph.D. Forensic Psychologist
Prof. Barbara B. Lewis Brandeis School of Law (Retired)	Rev. Joseph T. Graffis, Pastor St. Edward's Catholic Church

Charles R. Marra, President
C.C.M. Development Co., Inc.

George W. Rapp, Jr.
Business Consultant

David A. Graves
President & CEO
Brooklawn Youth Services

Hon. Benjamin F. Shobe
Judge (Retired)

John R. "Jack" Guthrie
Guthrie Mayes & Associates, Inc.

Will W. Ward, M.D.
Community medical Associates

Raymond J. Weis
Dismiss Charities, Inc.

Michael B. Mountjoy, CPA
Mountjoy & Bressler, LLP

Phillip L. Marshall
Hospice & Palliative Care of Louisville

John P. Walsh, CEO
The Morton Center

The Past Chairs of CBJ who make up the Advisory Board are:

John W. Bilby
J. Michael Brown
Charles J. Cronan, IV
Frank P. Doheny, Jr.
Larry B. Franklin
Daniel T. Goyette
K. Gregory Haynes
Bradley R. Hume
Janet P. Jakubowicz
Don H. Major
John R. McCall
Winston E. Miller
Ann B. Oldfather
Susan D. Phillips
Rebecca F. Schupbach
Lee E. Sitlinger, Jr.
Robert E. Stopher
Kenneth J. Tuggle
Joseph L. White

For further information, please visit CBJ's Web site (www.citizensforbetterjudges.org), or contact:

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