

CITIZENS FOR BETTER JUDGES

Press Release

September 25, 2008

Citizens for Better Judges (CBJ) announced its endorsements today in the contested judicial elections for the Jefferson District Court (Divisions 2, 8 and 16); the Jefferson Circuit Court (Division 4); and the Supreme Court of Kentucky (4th Judicial District).

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 for the upcoming general election was completed yesterday, September 24th, and involved consideration of two candidates for the Jefferson District Court (Div. 2); four candidates for the Jefferson District Court (Div. 8); two candidates for the Jefferson District Court (Div. 16); two candidates for the Jefferson Circuit Court (Div. 4); and two candidates for the Supreme Court of Kentucky. After a lengthy and rigorous evaluation of each candidate's qualifications for election to the bench, CBJ made the following endorsements:

Jefferson District Court, Division 2 – Ann Bailey Smith

Jefferson District Court, Division 8 – David P. Bowles

Jefferson District Court, Division 16 – Judge David L. Holton

Jefferson Circuit Court, Division 4 – Judge Charlie Cunningham

Supreme Court of Kentucky (4th Judicial District) – Justice Lisabeth Hughes Abramson

All of 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 their respective judicial races.

CBJ Officers for 2008 are:

Susan D. Phillips, Chair
Homer Parrent, III, Vice-Chair
Darryl W. Durham, Secretary/Treasurer

Reginald A. Bruce, Ph.D. and Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D. serve as Co-Chairs of the Citizens Review Board.

The members of the Attorney Steering Committee are:

Jennifer Kincaid Adams
Douglas C. Ballantine
John H. Bilby
Melissa Norman Bork
Matthew W. Breetz
Bradley A. Case
Paul A. Casi, II
Mark W. Dobbins
Darryl W. Durham
Angela Logan Edwards
Irvin D. Foley
Larry B. Franklin
Ann-Elizabeth Georgehead
James P. Grohman
Kenneth S. Handmaker

Bradley R. Hume
Ann Toni Kereiakes
Byron E. Leet
Don H. Major
Frank Mascagni, III
Homer Parrent, III
Susan D. Phillips
Patrick J. Renn
Peter L. Schuler
Rebecca F. Schupbach
William E. Sharp
Larry D. Simon
James U. Smith, III
Robert E. Stopher

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

Curtis L. Barrett, Ph.D.
Clinical and Forensic Psychologist

Reginald A. Bruce, Ph.D.
College of Business & Public Administration
University of Louisville

Rabbi Chester Diamond
The Temple

Eric Y. Drogin, J.D., Ph.D.

Marvin J. Fisher
BB&T Bank (Retired V.P.)

Rev. Helen H. Jones, D.Min.
St. Matthews Episcopal Church

Baylor Landrum, Jr.
Insurance Broker (Retired)

Dan R. Ison
Governmental Affairs Consultant

Prof. Barbara B. Lewis
Brandeis School of Law (Retired)

Forensic Psychologist

Rev. Joseph T. Graffits, Pastor
St. Edward's Catholic Church

David A. Graves
President & CEO
Brooklawn Youth Services

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

Raymond J. Weis
Dismiss Charities, Inc.

Phillip L. Marshall
Hospice & Palliative Care
of Louisville

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

George W. Rapp, Jr.
Business Consultant

Hon. Benjamin F. Shobe
Judge (Retired)

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

Michael B. Mountjoy, CPA
Mountjoy & Bressler, LLP

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. Dohney, 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
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:

Susan D. Phillips – (502) 583-9900