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September 14, 2012

RE: Opposition to Amendment #3

To Whom It May Concern:

As the St. Louis Circuit Attorney, I believe in having the most qualified and independent judiciary possible. The citizens of St. Louis need fair and impartial judges at all levels. Anything that injects partisan politics into the selection of judges would be harmful to our justice system. Constitutional Amendment #3 would inject partisan politics into the selection of our appellate judges in Missouri, and I am opposed to this change.

Amendment #3 would give all future governors virtual control of the Appellate Judicial Commission. The current Constitutional provisions prevent any politician or interest group from controlling the selection process. The Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan was the first merit-based selection plan in the country. It has been a model for over 30 states that have adopted merit-based appointment, in various forms, over the years.

For 72 years, the Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan has served Missouri very well. That's why I am opposed to Amendment #3.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Joyce
Circuit Attorney
City of St. Louis