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ALABAMA SUPREME COURT VOTER GUIDE RELEASED

Birmingham and Montgomery, AL. The Alabama League of Women Voters Education Fund and the Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice today released online a nonpartisan Voter Guide about candidates for the Alabama Supreme Court in the November 7 general election. The online Guide, accessible at www.lwval.org/election2006/voterguide, was developed by the League of Women Voters Education Fund and Appleseed as a collaborative effort to provide Alabama voters with information about the candidates.

The nonpartisan Voter Guide includes candidate responses to seven questions developed by the sponsoring groups. Questionnaires were sent to all candidates on August 30, 2006, with candidate responses required by September 22, 2006. Candidates' answers are printed as submitted without editing. Each candidate was limited to 250 words per answer and was asked not to make comparisons with any other candidate.

The questions are: 1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on the Alabama Supreme Court? 2. What do you consider to be the three most important attributes of a judge? 3. What is your judicial philosophy? 4. How do you define "judicial independence," and how important is it to our judicial system? 5. What is the greatest area of need in the Alabama justice system, and how should the Supreme Court respond, if at all? 6. What part, if any, should public opinion play in the decision of a judge? 7. In a case before the court, how should a judge handle a conflict between his/her personal beliefs and the law?

The Guide lists the nine candidates, with a photograph, in the order they will appear on the November 7 ballot. Seven of the nine candidates submitted, by the deadline, background and contact information and answers to the seven questions.

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