

Judges Call for Change in the Judicial Selection Process

In the first-ever undertaking of this nature, a national "Call to Action" statement identifying key areas in the judicial selection process that need improvement was announced by a group of state supreme court justices.

At the heart of the statement the justices call for changes in rules that govern campaign conduct and campaign finance



Thomas Phillips and Roger K. Warren

statutes and suggest specific strategies states and courts can take to enhance voter awareness and improve the judicial selection process.

The Call to Action is the result of a landmark *Summit on Improving Judicial Selection*, held in Chicago in December 2000. Close to 100 people, including chief justices, state legislators, and court reform advocates from the 17 most populous states, attended the summit to discuss ways to improve the judicial selection process. The summit and the resulting Call to Action were coordinated by the National Center for State Courts.

The Call to Action was released January 25 in Baltimore at the midyear meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices. The statement, however, was not endorsed by the conference or any other organization.

Roger K. Warren, president of the National Center, said reform in the judicial selection process is necessary to address several issues in the selection process, which relies overwhelmingly on direct or retention elections. "As currently con-

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