



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOUCHARD SIGNS "FAIR JUDICIARY OATH"

CFFJ AWARDS STABENOW "ENEMY OF THE CONSTITUTION" AWARD

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Candidate Michael Bouchard, Republican nominee for the United States Senate has signed the "Fair Judiciary Oath." Bouchard is the first Senate candidate from Michigan in the 2006 election cycle to take the Oath, which calls for a "fair and simple up-or-down vote" for all judicial nominees.

"One of the most important duties of an elected United States Senator is the review and confirmation of federal judges," said Kay Daly, president of the Coalition for a Fair Judiciary. "After observing the slow, painful deterioration of the judicial nominations process, it is readily apparent that a vocal minority is determined to obstruct the President's judicial nominees at all costs. In fact, for the first time in history, the filibuster has been deployed several times to grind several nominations to a halt. To that end, voters need to know what they can expect of their elected Senators once they reach those venerable chambers. Mike Bouchard, by signing the Fair Judiciary Oath, has spoken loud and clear."

A copy of the Fair Judiciary Oath was faxed to each of the Senate candidates with a cover letter explaining the purpose of the Oath. The Coalition for a Fair Judiciary started the Fair Judiciary Oath project in the 2004 election cycle.

"Men and women of outstanding character and experience, nominated by their President to serve on the federal bench, have been held in a nominations process akin to purgatory because of an ideological litmus test imposed by those who seek to hijack the federal courts for their own extreme agenda," said Daly. "Senator Deborah Stabenow has not been a champion for constitutionalist judicial nominees who will apply the law as it is written. Instead, Stabenow has taken every opportunity available to obstruct extraordinarily well qualified nominees to the bench, notably keeping the Sixth Circuit half empty in the process. By signing the Fair Judiciary Oath, Mike Bouchard has demonstrated his commitment to confirming fair, qualified nominees to the federal bench. This commitment to a smooth confirmation process would be a breath of fresh air by comparison."

The Coalition for a Fair Judiciary has conferred upon Senator Deborah Stabenow (D-MI) an "Enemy of the Constitution" designation for her unreasonable obstruction of fair, qualified, constitutionalist nominees and contributing to the decline of the judicial confirmation process.

"With the virtual certainty that a vacancy will occur on the United States Supreme Court in the next few years, the importance of this issue, and these candidates opinion on it, is of great interest," said Daly. "Clearly, Mike Bouchard understands that significance and like most Americans, would like to see fairness return to the process. It is time for Senator Stabenow to decide – will she continue to side with the obstructionists of the extreme left and the fat cats in Washington who orchestrate the obstruction or will she sign the Fair Judiciary Oath and live up to it?"

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THE FAIR JUDICIARY OATH

For candidates to the United States Senate

I, _____, pledge to the voters of the State of _____ and the citizens of the United States that:

I will work to see that everyone duly nominated to serve on the federal judiciary gets a fair confirmation process, including the following:

- 1) Nominees reaching the Senate floor shall get a timely up or down vote free from substantial delay, including filibuster;
- 2) If I serve on the Judiciary Committee, I will oppose any arbitrary obstacles that would prevent nominees moving out of committee, absent clear evidence of disqualification.

Name	Date
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Witness	Date
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