

RESOLUTION OF THE DALLAS TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Whereas the Dallas Bar Association conducts a bi-annual Judicial Evaluation Poll which began in the Early 1970's as a survey of performance of members of the Bench taken from attorneys to be published to the general public. This system has out lived its useful life. Objective information concerning the performance of the local judiciary is publicly available in the Dallas County Management Report and at Courtstuff.org;

Whereas the Judicial Evaluation Poll once served as a useful source of professional opinions about jurists, which could not practically be obtained any other way, now the poll serves more the function of an ideological litmus test or political tool;

Whereas an objective study undertaken in 2004, the only one of its kind, has conclusively shown that factors such as gender, political and/or personal bias serve as the dominating concerns over and above the legitimate criteria of the Judicial Evaluation Poll (including work ethic, knowledge and temperament). The results of the 2004 study were reported in an article, *Misjudging the Judge* and presented to the Dallas Bar Association leadership;

Whereas voting in the Poll includes criteria that is unenforceable and has shown to be ineffective by the study and is therefore subject to misuse or abuse;

Whereas the current Judicial Evaluation Poll is clouded with a "re-balloting" for the 2005 Judicial Evaluation Poll which cast serious doubt upon the integrity of the voting, the secrecy of the balloting and the candor of the Judicial Evaluation Poll;

Now therefore be it RESOLVED that the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association calls upon the Dallas Bar Association to abandon the Judicial Evaluation Poll which in its current form is contrary to the stated mission of the Bar, and in its place offer a composite of objectively verifiable data relating to the performance of jurists as a means of comporting with the Dallas Bar Association's mission of service and support to the legal profession in Dallas and promotion of good relations among lawyers, the judiciary, and the community.

June 1, 2005