

RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS, THE DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION HAS CONDUCTED A BI-ANNUAL JUDICIAL EVALUATION POLL, PURPORTEDLY AS A SUBJECTIVE SURVEY OF PERFORMANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE BENCH TAKEN FROM ATTORNEYS AND PUBLISHED THE POLL RESULTS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC;

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;

WHEREAS THIS SURVEY HAS SHOWN TO NO LONGER SERVE ITS STATED PURPOSE BECAUSE OBJECTIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE LOCAL JUDICIARY IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IN THE DALLAS COUNTY MANAGEMENT REPORT AND AT THE DALLAS COUNTY COURTS' WEB SITE;

WHEREAS A COMPREHENSIVE AND OBJECTIVE STUDY COMMISSIONED BY THE MESQUITE BAR ASSOCIATION WAS COMPLETED IN 2004, AND IT CONCLUSIVELY SHOWED THAT FACTORS SUCH AS GENDER AND POLITICAL AND PERSONAL BIAS HAVE INFECTED THE LEGITIMATE CRITERIA OF THE JUDICIAL EVALUATION POLL;

WHEREAS THE RESULTS OF THAT 2004 STUDY WERE REPORTED IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED *MISJUDGING THE JUDGE*, WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO THE DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP, THE DALLAS JUDICIARY AND THE DALLAS BAR PUBLICATION COMMITTEE AND THE DALLAS BAR HAS NOT YET TAKEN ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE;

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 RECENT JUDICIAL EVALUATION POLL AND RESULTS WERE CLOUDED WITH A "RE-BALLOTING" SCANDAL FOR THE 2005 JUDICIAL EVALUATION POLL, WHICH CAST SERIOUS DOUBT UPON THE INTEGRITY OF THE VOTING, THE MOTIVE BEHIND CONTINUING THE POLL, THE SECRECY OF THE BALLOTING, AND THE CANDOR OF THE JUDICIAL EVALUATION POLL;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NORTH DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION CALLS UPON THE DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION TO CEASE TAKING THE JUDICIAL EVALUATION POLL IN ITS CURRENT FORM, 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.

PASSED BY THE NORTH DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION ON OCTOBER 12, 2006.

SHARON CAMPBELL, SEC.
NORTH DALLAS,
BAR ASSOCIATION