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**TESTIMONY OF LARRY McCLAIN BEFORE
THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2396
March 29, 2011**

My name is Larry McClain. I am an attorney engaged in a mediation practice in Overland Park, Kansas. I am an original member of the Kansas Commission on Judicial Performance (KCJP). I have been an attorney for 40 years and about half of that time I was privileged to have the opportunity to serve as a District Judge. I served as Chief Judge in Johnson county for 4 years.

We are privileged to have an outstanding Judicial Branch. KCJP strives to improve the overall performance of our Kansas judges. Kansans deserve the best from our courts and KCJP has had a positive influence.

In addition to the materials submitted, I would encourage you to support continued funding for KCJP.

To summarize the reasons I urge your support of funding for the KCJP:

- KCJP provides objective information to the voting public regarding the judges on the ballot. Prior to KCJP this type of information was not available to voters in all 105 counties.
- KCJP has brought about positive improvement in many judges.
- KCJP provides a basis for Chief Judges to assist the performance of judges within their district.
- KCJP has continuously sought to improve the evaluation process and has improved and refined the process. Future positive impact on the Judicial Branch is imminent if the funding is continued.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear in support of the KCJP.

Appropriations Committee
Date March 29, 2011
Attachment 4