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Contact: name: Jane Shuler, Chief Counsel, Judicial Merit Selection Commission
Number: (803) 212-6623
Email: JaneShuler@scsenate.gov

Sen. Campsen appointed to Judicial Merit Selection Commission

Columbia, SC – November 8, 2012 – Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin today announced that he has appointed Charleston-area Senator Chip Campsen to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission.

Created in 1997, the Commission's role is to screen nominees for state judgeships, determine their qualifications, and recommend candidates to the General Assembly for a vote. South Carolina's judicial vetting system is one of only two states that use this modern hybrid system of merit selection and legislative election.

"The selection of judges is one of the most important functions the legislature performs because these individuals will preside over the resolution of some of the most difficult, traumatic events in citizens' lives," Campsen said. "I take my responsibility as a member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission very seriously and am honored that Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin has entrusted me with this responsibility."

Campsen succeeds Sen. Jake Knotts, who was appointed to the Commission in 2008

"This is a very important appointment. Our judicial system impacts the people and businesses of South Carolina on a daily basis so it is important that the people of our state have faith that the judges who interpret our laws and who pass judgment on our citizens are both ethically and intellectually qualified to be entrusted with that important responsibility," Sen. Martin said. "I know that Senator Campsen will serve with great distinction in this endeavor. Senator Campsen's intellect, work ethic, and legal and business experience make him an ideal choice for this appointment. The people of South Carolina will be better off for his service on the Judicial Merit Selection Commission and his commitment that judges are screened to ensure both their fairness and their ability."