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## **Ohio Supreme Court candidates escalate fundraising**

COLUMBUS -- Ohio Supreme Court Justice candidate Tim Black has raised more money in the first six months of the 2002 campaign than the total amount he generated during Election 2000, according to a study released today by Ohio Citizen Action. Evelyn Lundberg Stratton fast approaches her 1996 total of \$476,253 with \$439,099 in contributions so far.

“During the length of one term for Ohio Supreme Court justice, the amount generated by candidates has jumped dramatically,” said Catherine Turcer, campaign reform director for Ohio Citizen Action. “The total amount raised by all the candidates during the 2002 primary period is larger than the total amount raised during all of Election 1996.”

Maureen O’Connor and Evelyn Stratton received \$11,000 so far this year from the Bricker and Eckler Political Action Committee (PAC). Brickler and Eckler, LLC represent the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy in the school funding debate. They are also counsel to the Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice, a tort reform advocacy group.

This is the second in a series of studies tracking both monetary and in-kind contributions to candidates for justice of the Ohio Supreme Court during Election 2002. This report looked at contributions from January 1-June 7, 2002, the Pre-Primary and Post-Primary periods. Ohio Supreme Court candidates have generated a total of \$1,941,219 so far this year in both monetary and in-kind contributions.