Directions to John K. Hulston Hall and Harry and Ann Cornell Hall

From Interstate 70
EXIT at Providence Road and turn south
LEFT onto Rollins Road after 1.75 miles
LEFT onto Maryland Ave
LEFT onto Turner Ave
NEXT RIGHT to Turner Avenue Garage
VISITOR PARKING Levels 3, 6 and 7.
From the garage
2 blocks east to John K. Hulston Hall,
corner of Missouri and Conley Avenues
1 block east to Harry and Ann Cornell Hall,
corner of Rollins Road and Maryland Avenue

Cost and Registration
There is no fee for the symposium. The panels are open to the public, but registration is requested by Friday, February 20, 2009.
To register, please contact:
Missouri Law Review
University of Missouri School of Law
15 Hulston Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
mulaw symposium@missouri.edu
www.law.missouri.edu/lawreview

Continuing Legal Education Credit
This symposium is approved for 9.0 hours of mandatory continuing legal education credit in the state of Missouri.

About the Missouri Law Review
University of Missouri School of Law students lead many successful organizations and law journals, including the Missouri Law Review. The law review, an entirely student-run journal, is one of the oldest legal publications west of the Mississippi. The articles featured in this year’s symposium will appear in the summer issue of volume 74 in fall 2009. Domestic subscriptions are available for $40; international subscriptions are $45. To view recent issues or request a subscription, please see www.law.missouri.edu/lawreview or call 573-882-7055.
Increasingly, politicians, academics and attorneys passionately debate the systems of selecting and retaining state judges. The Missouri Plan was originally conceived and adopted by many states to eliminate, or at least reduce, the role of politics in judicial selection and decision-making. Yet the recent debate has been almost entirely political and has led to new special interest groups, expensive media campaigns and legislation promising reform.

The intention of the Missouri Plan, also known as a merit selection plan, is to provide for the selection of judges based on merit, rather than on political affiliation. Under the plan as applied in Missouri, a nonpartisan judicial commission made up of attorneys appointed by the bar, lay citizens appointed by the governor and the Missouri Chief Justice, nominate a pool of judges from which the governor selects. Since its inception, the Missouri Plan has served as a national model for the selection of judges and has been adopted in various forms in more than 30 other states. As such, the debate over whether to preserve, repeal or reform the Missouri Plan in its mother state will have national implications.

Bringing together some of the nation’s most prominent scholars, federal and state judges, lawyers and students alike, the 2009 Missouri Law Review Symposium, “Mulling over the Missouri Plan: A Review of State Judicial Selection and Retention Systems,” seeks to infuse an academic perspective into an already heated debate.

Recent developments have raised a number of questions to be addressed by the symposium participants: What are the effects of special interest influence on the selection and election of judges and judicial decision-making in the pursuit of the balance between independence and accountability? How well do retention votes work to balance judicial independence with the will of the public in a merit-selection system? What are the arguments for reforming the Missouri Plan? Who are the constituencies urging reform or preservation? What is the best way to preserve fair and impartial state courts?