



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MEDIA ADVISORY – LWV-Mobile features Judge Sue Bell Cobb, Speaker
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 11:30-1:00 p.m.**

Mobile – Former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb will address the League of Women Voters of Mobile about the influence of money in elections. Cobb knows the topic well. She won election to the state's highest court in the most expensive judicial campaign in the nation that year -- with \$2.6 million in her campaign coffers and nearly twice that amount, \$5 million, in her opponent's coffers.

Alabama's first female chief justice will offer perspective for voters as the state readies itself to elect three of the court's nine justices in 2016. Alabama led the nation in campaign spending for its supreme court races until recently. It is one of 39 states that elects its judges.

Cobb is a strong advocate for appointed judgeships. After serving as a judge for 25 years, she won election as chief justice on the Alabama Supreme Court in 2006. She retired in 2011.

"Those of us seeking judicial office often find ourselves doing things that feel awfully unsavory." Cobb she wrote recently in Politico Magazine. "When a judge asks a lawyer who appears in his or her court for a campaign check, it's about as close as you can get to legalized extortion."

Cobb writes in Politico about her discomfort asking friends and acquaintances in the legal profession for campaign contributions and describes perfectly legal, but "shameful" and "embarrassing," tactics used by some successful judicial candidates around the country.

LWV-Mobile is especially interested in hearing from Cobb because it is beginning a study of money in elections, part of a nationwide League of Women Voters examination of the issue, which will hopefully lead to the formation of an updated national position on campaign finance.

"We're just delighted that Judge Sue Bell Cobb is going to be sharing her immense knowledge of judicial campaign spending with us," said LWV-Mobile President Betsey Wooten. "We have great admiration for her passion and interest in pushing Alabama to reform its judicial selection process."

This luncheon begins LWV-Mobile's study of money in politics and promises to be both interesting and timely as the 2016 elections heat up. We will meet at the Bel Air Marriott at 3101 Airport Blvd. from 11:30-1:00 on Wednesday, Sept. 16. This event is open to the public. The buffet lunch is \$17. Please RSVP to Jane Gordon at lovjan42@comcast.net or 402-3321.

The League of Women Voters, a national, nonpartisan, political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.