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MONTGOMERY ---Montgomery attorney Tom Edwards, Democratic nominee for the Alabama Supreme Court, said he is running to wrest control of the court from Wall Street and return it to the people of Alabama.

“When I am elected I plan to bring integrity, balance and impartiality to the court,” Edwards said. “Over the last two decades, Wall Street brokers, insurance companies and out-of-state corporations have pumped millions upon millions of dollars into Alabama’s Supreme Court races; making Alabama’s judicial elections the most expensive in America, more expensive than California, Texas and Illinois, even though Alabama's total population is a mere fraction of these other states.”

“These huge contributions, coupled with untold troublesome decisions by the court, have created a shameful perception that the court can be and has been bought,” Edwards said. “It is time to remove that cloak of shame from our state’s highest court, which should be and must be the place of last resort where the good citizens of Alabama, both individuals and Alabama businesses, can all expect to receive a “fair-shake” no matter what, no matter when, no matter how.”

“Let’s not overlook the problem of frivolous lawsuits. People are deeply concerned about this perception of the legal system as well. As an attorney, I know I am. No one should profit by filing a frivolous claim. Laws and rules exist to fight this problem and I promise to enforce the law and be vigilant to make sure this does not happen on cases coming before the Alabama Supreme Court. As justice, I will stop frivolous lawsuits.”

Edwards, who is a minister and a practicing attorney, said he had prayed about his decision and that he felt “enough is enough; it is time for a fresh start for Alabama.”

“My top priority as a justice will be to promote justice for all who come before the court, whether an individual or a business, and to bring Alabama family values and understanding to the legal system,” the past President of the Alabama Association for Justice said. “I think the people of Alabama are tired of the ‘suspicious spending ‘of millions upon millions of dollars by Wall Street corporations to ‘stack’ the Alabama Supreme Court.”

Edwards said he has seen the court take a “dangerous turn” violating our Judeo-Christian family values by putting profits over people; the needs of corporate America over individuals; and, more importantly, voting with financial backers against the interest of the citizens of Alabama.

Edwards also encouraged voters to ask his opponent, Justice Mike Bolin, the following five questions:

1. Why did you vote against the citizens of Alabama and in favor of Exxon which is the largest and most profitable international corporation that has ever existed in the entire world, who cheated the state and the taxpayers out of millions of dollars in oil royalties?
2. Why did you vote against the citizens of Alabama in favor of international pharmaceutical companies who defrauded the state Medicaid Agency which cost taxpayers millions of dollars?
3. Why was your previous campaign mostly funded by groups representing big business, big insurance, big Wall Street companies, and big banks?
4. Why did a clandestine group out of Washington, D.C. spend over a million dollars running ads that directly benefited your campaign?
5. Why did you vote to treat judges special by making it harder for Alabama citizens to bring complaints of ethic violations against unethical judges?