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Baltimore City State's Attorney

Democrat: Anton Keating

There's no way around it: No one in this race other than Anton Keating has the smarts, the experience, and the well-laid plans to fix the city's State's Attorney's Office. Incumbent Patricia Jessamy wants voters to keep her in office, but the trail of her nearly eight years as Baltimore's top prosecutor is littered with legal horror stories. To the extent that she is even willing to admit problems, her reform measures have been either too late, incomplete, or, as is her drive to computerize the prosecutor's office, bound to happen anyway. Candidate Lisa Stancil, currently a city councilwoman, has hardly any experience as an attorney, much less as an administrator of what amounts to a 200-member law firm.

Keating understands the local criminal justice system like no one else in this contest. Over the course of nearly 34 years before the bar in Baltimore, all he *hasn't* done around the courthouse is be a judge or a criminal defendant. As an energetic prosecutor, public defender, and criminal-defense attorney, he has built a long track record of success, integrity, tirelessness, and fair play in an adversarial process. His reform agenda is thoughtful, detailed, and practical, addressing everything from the SAO's famous disregard for rules of discovery, to its lack of coordination with other law-enforcement agencies, to its sullied reputation as an office in disarray, staffed with attorneys who refuse to acknowledge and correct their shortcomings. Keating will make quick work of these problems, and follow up by putting in place procedural and technical changes, backed up with exhaustive training, to ensure frustrated city residents can regain confidence in the office. The position, long mismanaged, is simply too important to give our endorsement to anyone but Keating.

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