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**The Florida Bar
Separation of Powers
Dataseeted Questionnaire**

**Florida Field Period: December 27-29, 2005
400 completed telephone interviews with Florida adults 18+**

**National Field Period: July 22-27, 2005
1,002 completed telephone interviews with US adults 18+**

January 6, 2005

J26419

The Florida Bar Survey was conducted by telephone within the United States between December 27 and 29, 2005 among 400 adults from Florida (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race, education, number of adults, and number of voice/telephone lines in the household were weighted where necessary to align them with their actual proportions in the population.

In theory, with a probability sample of this size, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a sampling error of plus or minus 5 percentage points of what they would be if the entire Florida adult population had been polled with complete accuracy. Unfortunately, there are several other possible sources of error in all polls or surveys that are probably more serious than theoretical calculations of sampling error. They include refusals to be interviewed (nonresponse), question wording and question order, interviewer bias, weighting by demographic control data and screening (e.g., for likely voters). It is impossible to quantify the errors that may result from these factors.

SECTIONS FOR QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION 400: SEPARATION OF POWERS

BASE: ALL RESPONDENTS

Q411: What are the three branches of government?

	<u>Florida</u> <u>(n=400)</u>	<u>National</u> <u>(n=1,002)</u>
	%	%
Legislative, executive, and judicial	59	55
Local, state, and federal	18	16
Republican, Democrat, and Independent	16	22
State, national, and international	3	3
Don't know/Refused to answer (vol)	4	5
% Incorrect (Net)	37	40

BASE: ALL RESPONDENTS

Q415: How familiar would you say you are with these concepts on which the U.S. Constitution is structured? The first/next concept is...[INSERT ROTATE A-B]. Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar or not familiar at all?

Q415_1

	<u>Florida (n=400)</u> <u>Separation of powers</u>	<u>National (n=1,002)</u> <u>Separation of powers</u>
	%	%
Familiar (net)	67	63
Very familiar	20	21
Somewhat familiar	47	42
Not familiar (net)	33	36
Not very familiar	19	20
Not familiar at all	14	16
Don't know/Refused to answer (vol)	1	1

Q415_2

	<u>Florida (n=400)</u> <u>Checks and balances</u>	<u>National (n=1,002)</u> <u>Checks and balances</u>
	%	%
Familiar (net)	72	68
Very familiar	24	23
Somewhat familiar	48	45
Not familiar (net)	28	32
Not very familiar	15	19
Not familiar at all	13	13
Don't know/Refused to answer (vol)	*	*

BASE: ALL RESPONDENTS

Q420: Which of the following best describes what "separation of powers" means?

	<u>Florida</u> <u>(n=400)</u>	<u>National</u> <u>(n=1,002)</u>
	%	%
Congress, the President and the Federal Courts each have different responsibilities	46	45
Different federal departments have different powers. For example, the Department of Defense runs the military while the Department of Justice prosecutes crimes.	29	27
The federal government does some things, like set postage rates, while state governments have other powers, like setting speed limits on state highways.	15	15
Republicans can do some things, but Democrats can do others	4	6
Don't know/Refused to answer (vol)	7	8
% Incorrect (Net)	47	48

BASE: ALL RESPONDENTS

Q425: How important is the principle of “separation of powers” in the federal government?

	<u>Florida</u> <u>(n=400)</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>(n=1,002)</u>
	%	%
Important (net)	90	82
Very important	71	61
Important	19	21
Somewhat important	8	13
Not important (net)	2	5
Not important	1	3
Not sure what it means (vol)	1	2
Don't know/Refused to answer (vol)	*	1

BASE: ALL RESPONDENTS

Q430: Which of the following best describes what “checks and balances” refers to?

	<u>Florida</u> <u>(n=400)</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>(n=1,002)</u>
	%	%
A division of power among the branches of federal government that prevents any one of them from going beyond their constitutional authority	61	64
Negotiations between Congress and the President over a balanced federal budget	17	15
The decisions by the Federal Reserve Board about interest rates and banking	10	8
Regulation of auditors and the financial services industry by the Securities and Exchange Commission	7	6
Don't know/Refused to answer (vol)	6	6
% Incorrect (Net)	33	29

BASE: ALL RESPONDENTS

Q435: How important is the principle of “checks and balances” in the federal government?

	<u>Florida</u> <u>(n=400)</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>(n=1,002)</u>
	%	%
Important (net)	93	86
Very important	76	69
Important	17	17
Somewhat important	3	11
Not important (net)	3	3
Not important	2	2
Not sure what it means (vol)	1	1
Don't know/Refused to answer (vol)	-	1

BASE: ALL RESPONDENTS

Q440: I'm going to read you a list of several phrases that might describe what it means to have an independent judiciary. Which do you think best describes what is meant by the term "independent judiciary?"

	<u>Florida</u> <u>(n=400)</u> %
Judges are fair, impartial and free from political influence	72
Judges can make decisions based on what they personally believe	7
Judges are not Republicans or Democrats	12
Judges can make or change laws from the bench	6
Don't know/Refused to answer (vol)	3
% Incorrect (Net)	25

Note: * signifies less than .5% selected response