

PRESS RELEASE

September 1, 2009

The Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission (IJEQC) for the First Judicial District, comprising New York County, completed its review of some of the candidates for judicial vacancies in that District and published the rating for those candidates.

The criteria for evaluation under Part 150 of the Rules of the Chief Administrative Judge include “professional ability; character, independence and integrity; reputation for fairness and lack of bias; and temperament, including courtesy and patience.” The guidelines and procedures for the Commissions, including the information to be provided by each candidate, are set forth in Appendix A to Part 150.

Each Commission consists of fifteen members, including attorneys and lay people, selected by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Presiding Justices of each Appellate Division, the State Bar Association and local bar associations, and represents a cross section of the community in each district. Two Commissions were established to review the qualifications of candidates for judicial offices in the First Department, one for the First Judicial District, comprising New York County, and another for the Twelfth Judicial District, comprising Bronx County.

This year, the IJEQC for the First Judicial District rated candidates running in New York County as follows:

Jennifer G. Schechter, Esq.-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York, New York County-Qualified

J. Mabelle Sweeting, Esq.-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York, New York County-Qualified

Judge Analisa Torres-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York, New York County and Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified.

Last year, the IJEQC for the First Judicial District rated candidates in New York County as follows:

Nora S. Anderson, Esq.-Surrogate-Qualified

Nancy Bannon, Esq.-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York-Qualified

Justice Lucy A. Billings-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified

Judge Raymond L. Bruce-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified

Judge Matthew F. Cooper-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified

James E. D’Auguste, Esq.-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York-Qualified

Judge Arthur F. Engoron-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified

Judge Debra James-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified

Justice Marcy L. Kahn-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified

Justice Deborah A. Kaplan-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified

Michael Katz, Esq.-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York-Qualified

Justice Cynthia S. Kern-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified

Judge Peter H. Moulton-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified
Frank Nervo, Esq.-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York-Qualified
Judge Jeffrey K. Oing-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified
John J. Reddy, Jr., Esq.-Surrogate-Qualified
Judge Salliann Scarpulla-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified
Justice Martin Schoenfeld-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified
Judge Anil C. Singh-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified
Judge Richard M. Weinberg-Justice of the Supreme Court-Qualified

In 2007, the IJEQC for the First Judicial District rated the following candidates then running in New York County as “Qualified” for the following judicial offices:

Justice Sheila Abdus-Salaam-Justice of the Supreme Court
Judge Harold B. Beeler-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York
Judge Dorothy Chin-Brandt-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York
Judge Laura E. Drager-Justice of the Supreme Court
Mark Ryan Dwyer, Esq.-Justice of the Supreme Court
Justice Paul George Feinman-Justice of the Supreme Court
Judge Fern A. Fisher-Justice of the Supreme Court
Judge Ellen Gesmer-Justice of the Supreme Court
Judge Judith J. Gische-Justice of the Supreme Court
Judge Barbara Jaffe-Justice of the Supreme Court
Judge Shirley Werner Kornreich-Justice of the Supreme Court
Judge Gerald Lebovits-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York
Andrea Masley, Esq.-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York
Justice Charles Edward Ramos-Justice of the Supreme Court
Robert Reed, Esq.-Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York
Justice Michael David Stallman-Justice of the Supreme Court

Candidates found “Qualified” for election to judicial office are deemed qualified for that office for three years, in absence of any new information that may have a negative effect on his or her qualifications and background, pursuant to Part 150, Appendix A, Section 3.

The members of the IJEQC for the First Judicial District are Hon. George Bundy Smith, Chadbourne & Parke, Chair; Terri D. Austin, Esq., Chief Diversity Officer, American International Group; Peter Johnson, Jr., Leahey & Johnson, P.C.; Lenore Kramer, Esq., Kramer & Dunleavy, LLP; Steven C. Krane, Esq., Proskauer Rose LLP; Shamsey Oloko, Esq., The Thorgood Law Firm; Edwin David Robertson, Esq., Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP; Lisa M. Velazquez, Esq., Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP; Ona T. Wang, Esq., Baker Hostetler; and Kathryn Wylde, President and CEO, The Partnership for New York City.

For further information, contact First Judicial District Commission Chair Hon. George Bundy Smith at Chadbourne & Parke, (212) 408-5100 or Rachell Sirota, Esq., Director, IJEQC at (212) 340-0572.