Allegheny County Bar Association Releases Ratings for Judicial Candidates Running in May 21 Primary Election

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Bar Association has announced its ratings for those individuals running for judicial office in the May 21 primary election.

Candidates will be vying for judicial vacancies in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas and the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. The ACBA rates only those candidates who live in and/or have an office in Allegheny County.

Additional information on the candidates and the ACBA ratings process can be found at www.JudicialVote19.org.

The ACBA has issued the following ratings:

**Superior Court of Pennsylvania**

Elizabeth M. Tarasi Not Recommended at this Time

**Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas**

George A. Heym Highly Recommended

Richard J. Joyce Recommended

Brian S. Malkin Recommended

Mary C. McGinley Recommended

“One of the most important duties as a bar association is to help the residents of Allegheny County make informed choices when voting for judicial candidates,” said ACBA President Bryan Neft. “Our Judiciary Committee takes this responsibility very seriously. The members of the committee spent countless hours interviewing candidates and looking into their qualifications. The committee evaluated them in several key areas, including temperament, legal experience, academic achievement, integrity and community involvement. We encourage Allegheny County citizens to use this information to vote with confidence on May 21.”

-more-
About ACBA Judicial Ratings

ACBA Judicial Ratings cover those candidates seeking seats on the bench of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania and the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas who have requested a rating, have been interviewed by the ACBA’s Judiciary Committee and who live in and/or have an office in Allegheny County. In the 2019 Pennsylvania Primary Elections, there is one such vacancy in the Pennsylvania Superior Court and one in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas.

According to ACBA bylaws, the Judiciary Committee must rate all candidates running for the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, whether they have requested an interview and rating or not. This year, all candidates for the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas were interviewed by the Judiciary Committee.

Candidates for statewide courts can choose to also be rated by the Allegheny County Bar Association. The candidate included in the above listing for statewide court did request to be interviewed and rated.

The Allegheny County Bar Association’s Judiciary Committee is a non-partisan committee of 24 attorneys who have been elected at large by the approximately 5,800-member bar association. The committee evaluates each candidate in the areas of temperament, experience in the field of law, academic achievement, honesty and integrity, reputation, general community interest and contributions to the profession.

Explanation of Ratings:

Highly Recommended

The candidate:

- Exhibits pre-eminence in the law by way of outstanding legal ability and a wide range of experience, either in a specialized field of law or a more varied practice, and has a reputation in the legal community as standing at the top of his or her profession.
- Possesses a reputation for the utmost integrity and temperament to excel as a judge of the court for which he/she is a candidate.
- Exhibits outstanding citizenship by way of community and professional contributions.
- Is an exceptional individual who will enhance or has enhanced the competence, dignity and public perception of the bench.

Recommended

The candidate possesses a reputation for the utmost integrity and the legal ability, experience and temperament to excel as a judge of the court for which he or she is a candidate.

Not Recommended at this Time

The candidate’s legal ability, experience and reputation indicate that, at some future time in his or her legal career, he or she may have the potential to excel as a judge, but the candidate is not yet at that stage.

Unqualified

The candidate does not now possess and is not likely to acquire the ability, reputation, or temperament necessary for a judicial position.
About the ACBA

Chartered in 1870 and headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Bar Association is a professional organization with 5,800 member attorneys, judges, district justices, legal administrators, and paralegals.