



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

*Serving the Pittsburgh Legal Community*

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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April 20, 2023

## Allegheny County Bar Association Releases Ratings for Judicial Candidates Running in May 16 Primary Election

**PITTSBURGH** – The Allegheny County Bar Association has announced its ratings for those individuals running for judicial office in the May 16 primary election.

Candidates will be vying for judicial vacancies in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

The ACBA rates all candidates running for a position on the bench in the Court of Common Pleas. For Pennsylvania appellate court races, 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.JudicialVote2023.org](http://www.JudicialVote2023.org).

### Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

<b>R. Anthony DeLuca</b>	Highly Recommended
<b>Hon. Andy F. Szefi</b>	Highly Recommended
<b>Patrick Allen Sweeney</b>	Recommended

### Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania

<b>Bryan S. Neft</b>	Highly Recommended
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### Superior Court of Pennsylvania

<b>Jill L. Beck</b>	Highly Recommended
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### Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

<b>Hon. Patricia A. McCullough</b>	Not Recommended
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“One of our most important functions as a bar association is to help educate the citizens of Allegheny County so they can make informed decisions when casting votes for those running for judge,” said ACBA President Erica Laughlin. “Our Judiciary Committee takes the responsibility of developing candidate ratings very seriously, and we encourage all Allegheny County residents to use this information to vote with confidence on May 16.”

### **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.

The ACBA Judiciary Committee is required by ACBA By-Laws to interview and evaluate all candidates seeking appointment to/or running for a seat on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Candidates who do not submit applications for interviews and evaluations for the Court of Common Pleas receive a rating of “Not Recommended.” The Judiciary Committee may interview and evaluate Pa. Appellate Court candidates who have their principal offices in Allegheny County or reside in Allegheny County, at the request of that candidate. The ACBA Board of Governors reviews the ratings of candidates prepared by the Judiciary Committee. The ratings are published when authorized by the Board of Governors.

### **Explanation of Ratings:**

#### **Highly Recommended**

The candidate:

- A. 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.
- B. Possesses a reputation for the utmost integrity and temperament to excel as a judge of the court for which he/she is a candidate.
- C. Exhibits outstanding citizenship by way of community and professional contributions.
- D. 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 the time of the Committee’s evaluation process, the candidate has not demonstrated to the Committee that the candidate possesses the legal ability, character, reputation, experience or temperament for a judicial position.

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### **About the ACBA**

*Chartered in 1870 and headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Bar Association is a professional organization with more than 5,500 member attorneys, judges, district justices, legal administrators, and paralegals.*