



ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Serving the Pittsburgh Legal Community

400 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
www.ACBA.org • 412-261-6161

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Brian Knavish

*Director of Marketing, Media Relations
and Strategic Partnerships*

bknavish@acba.org | 412-402-6620

October 30, 2023

ACBA Can Help Voters Make Informed Decisions with Judicial Candidate, Retention Election Ratings

PITTSBURGH – Election Day is Nov. 7, and the Allegheny County Bar Association aims to help members of the community make informed decisions when casting their ballots.

Two candidates are seeking to be elected to the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, which currently has one vacancy. The ACBA Judiciary Committee has evaluated and rated both candidates.

Additionally, six judges whose 10-year terms are expiring are seeking to be re-elected for additional 10-year terms. They are running unopposed in a “yes” or “no” referendum, asking voters if each judge should be retained. The attorneys of the ACBA were surveyed and strongly recommend all six judges be retained.

“One of the most important things we, as a bar association, do for the public is provide them with these judicial candidate and retention ratings,” said ACBA President Marla Presley. “Often, members of the public are not in a position to know if a given candidate would make a good judge, or which judges have performed well on the bench. That’s why the ACBA evaluates these candidates and sitting judges, so that Allegheny County voters can make informed decisions when casting their ballots.”

Ratings for both the judicial election and the retention election are below. For additional information on the candidates and judicial elections, visit www.JudicialVote2023.org.

Retention Election Ratings

ACBA membership has recommended for retention the six Allegheny County judges running for retention in the Nov. 7 municipal election. The judges are:

Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

- The Hon. **Eleanor L. Bush**
- The Hon. **Paul E. Cozza**
- The Hon. **Lawrence J. O’Toole**
- The Hon. **Jill E. Rangos**
- The Hon. **Jennifer A. Satler**
- The Hon. **Christine A. Ward**

-more-

Judicial Candidate Ratings

The ACBA has rated both individuals running for the vacancy on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, as well as the Allegheny County candidate running for the Pa. Superior Court.

Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

- **R. Anthony DeLuca** Highly Recommended
- **Patrick A. Sweeney** Recommended

Superior Court of Pennsylvania

- **Jill Lipman Beck** Highly Recommended

About ACBA Retention Election Ratings

ACBA Retention Election Ratings cover those judges on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, as well as judges from the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania and with a primary office in Allegheny County, whose terms are expiring. These judges are seeking to be retained for another 10-year term and run unopposed. Voters are asked to vote “yes” or “no” regarding whether each judge should be retained.

All ACBA members – including many attorneys who practice before these judges – are surveyed and asked if each judge should be retained. Each retention candidate is then given a “Recommended” or “Not Recommended” rating based on the results of this survey.

About ACBA Judicial Candidate 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.

###

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.