

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS RELEASE



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San Diego Lawyers Release Evaluations for Contested Judges' Races in June Primary

SAN DIEGO, CA, May 9, 2006 -- The San Diego County Bar Association announced today ratings for the eight candidates seeking three contested judicial positions on San Diego's Superior Court in the June 6 primary election. The ratings, determined by the Bar's Judicial Election Evaluation Committee after a month of intensive investigation and interviews, were ratified by the Association's Board of Directors.

Because there is often little information available publicly about judicial candidates, the Bar considers the ratings to be one of its most important public services, according to Andrew Albert, president of the 8,500-member association.

"Many San Diegans face the ballot to elect judges with little knowledge of the candidates," Albert said. "While the job can be difficult, the Bar is committed to fairly, deliberately and accurately evaluating those running for judicial office and to providing that information to the voters. The ratings will help them make informed decisions in these important races."

The Bar's Judicial Election Evaluation Committee's 21-members represent a cross-section of San Diego's legal community by gender and ethnicity, including lawyers from the public and private sectors, corporate counsel, sole practitioners and members of small, medium and large firms. The committee members also represent a broad geographic spectrum of cities throughout the county.

The committee follows a detailed confidential evaluation process, actively seeking information from a wide variety of sources. The committee does not compare opposing candidates and neither endorses nor opposes the election of specific candidates, but rather evaluates each candidate on his or her individual merit based on the standards set forth below and submits its ratings in a report to the SDCBA's Board of Directors.

Ratings assigned to the judicial candidates are based on the following standards:

Well Qualified: Possessing professional ability, experience, competence, integrity and temperament indicating exceptional ability to perform the judicial function with a high degree of skill and effectiveness.

Qualified: Possessing professional ability, experience, competence, integrity and temperament indicating satisfactory ability to perform the judicial function.

Lacking Qualifications: Lacking one or more of the essential abilities or skills to satisfactorily perform the judicial function.

Unable to Evaluate: The committee did not receive sufficient information to fairly and adequately evaluate this candidate's ability to perform the judicial function.

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The Judicial Election Evaluation Committee ratings for the June 2006 primary are as follows:

Superior Court Judge Office 16

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| James V. Hairgrove | Lacking Qualification |
| Honorable Randa Trapp | Well Qualified |

Superior Court Judge Office 36

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Larry D. Kincaid | Unable to Evaluate |
| Lisa M. Laqua | Lacking Qualification |
| Carla Nasoff | Well Qualified |
| Roderick W. Shelton | Well Qualified |

Superior Court Judge Office 49

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Paul J. Pfingst | Qualified |
| David M. Rubin | Well Qualified |

Thousands of confidential questionnaires were distributed to members of the legal community. All of the candidates were encouraged to distribute questionnaires to persons who knew them, including attorneys, judicial officers, and court staff. The fifty largest law firms in San Diego, as well as fifty-nine bar related organizations, were asked to provide information on the candidates. The committee carefully reviewed the completed confidential questionnaires. Using the questionnaire responses as a foundation, committee members conducted an independent follow-up investigation of each candidate, and each candidate was invited to participate in a personal interview with members of the committee.

Any candidate tentatively rated as "Lacking Qualifications" was entitled to appeal the proposed rating by appearing personally before the committee to contest the rating, and before the meeting the candidate was informed, consistent with the committee's obligations of confidentiality, of the nature of the information upon which the committee based its tentative rating. Following this meeting, the committee would take a new vote on the rating for the candidate.

Dennis A. Schoville, a partner with the law firm of Schoville & Arnell, LLP, chaired this year's Judicial Election Evaluation Committee. A criterion of appointment to the committee was that a member could not endorse or sponsor any judicial candidate in the election, nor allow his or her name to be used in connection with any such candidate.

The SDCBA Judicial Election Evaluation Committee was first established in 1978 to provide the public with information regarding judicial candidates for contested primary and general elections.

The 8,500-member San Diego County Bar Association was founded in 1899 and is headquartered in downtown San Diego.

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