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The Monroe County Bar Association Reports 2009 Judicial Evaluation Results

Six candidates earn a 'highly qualified' rating, and two are found 'qualified'

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The Monroe County Bar Association (MCBA) today released its evaluation results of eight candidates seeking judgeships for New York State Supreme Court, Monroe County Surrogate's Court, Monroe County Court and Rochester City Court.

The ratings for 2009 judicial candidates are:

Supreme Court

Hon. Kenneth R. Fisher	Highly Qualified
Hon. Alexander R. Renzi	Highly Qualified
Christopher Ciaccio, Esq	Qualified

Monroe County Surrogates Court

Hon. Edmund A. Calvaruso	Highly Qualified
Christopher Ciaccio, Esq.	Qualified

Monroe County Court

Hon. John L. DeMarco	Qualified
Hon. Brian M. McCarthy	Highly Qualified
Gary Muldoon, Esq.	Highly Qualified

Rochester City Court

Hon. Thomas Rainbow Morse	Highly Qualified
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* Christopher Ciaccio's rating is a one-year rating since the poll was only for Surrogates Court.

The MCBA has a three-tier rating system consisting of "highly qualified," "qualified" and "not qualified." The ratings are based on an evaluation by hundreds of lawyers and judges who have professional experience with each candidate, along with in-depth research and interviews by the MCBA's 27-member Judiciary Committee. The evaluation process is designed to be fair and unbiased and is intended to be a public service to provide voters with useful information on the candidate's qualifications for judicial office. The MCBA encourages the public to assess the candidates independently and make up their own mind come Election Day.

Thorough and impartial evaluation process.

The Monroe County Bar Association balances two elements that combine to provide a thorough and impartial evaluation of every candidate.

- *Evaluation by peers.* A survey, completed by hundreds of Monroe County attorneys representing a cross-section of the legal community, is a key element of the evaluation process. The survey was completed electronically through Metrix Matrix, and paper evaluations were made available for those without access to a computer. More than 450 lawyers and judges who practice in Monroe County and have regular professional contact with a candidate affirmatively participated in the survey.
- *In-depth interviews and research.* The Bar Association's judiciary committee conducted an in-depth interview and research process, including analysis of legal writings and reference checks, along with interviews of peers and adversaries. The committee is composed of 27 members, who are diverse in race, gender, political affiliation and areas of practice expertise.

Candidates were evaluated on the survey and through questioning in six categories that are important to being a good judge — experience, legal analysis, judicial temperament and demeanor, ethics and integrity, communication skills and sensitivity to discrimination.

To view the rules for the MCBA's judicial evaluations, please go to www.mcba.org, or call 585-546-1817.

About the Monroe County Bar Association

The Monroe County Bar Association, originally formed as the Rochester Bar Association, was organized in 1892. What started with just 25 members, has grown to nearly 2,200 law professionals in Monroe County, committed to improving the quality and accessibility of justice; promoting respect and understanding of the law; enhancing professional growth, fulfillment, excellence, collegiality and diversity among its members; and serving as a voice for the law profession. The MCBA is actively involved with both the New York State Bar and the American Bar Associations and is considered one of the premier local bar associations in the country.

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