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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 8, 2015

Nine Individuals Seeking Judgeships Have Been Rated Highly Qualified or Qualified by the Monroe County Bar Association

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The Monroe County Bar Association (MCBA) today released the 2015 rating results of nine individuals seeking judgeships for NYS Supreme Court, Monroe County Family Court and Rochester City Court.

The ratings are as follows:

NYS Supreme Court

Hon. Craig J. Doran	Highly Qualified
Gary Muldoon	Highly Qualified
Matthew D. Nafus	Highly Qualified
Hon. James J. Piampiano	Qualified
Judith A. Sinclair	Qualified
Hon. William K. Taylor	Qualified

Monroe County Family Court

Maritza Buitrago	Highly Qualified
Gary Muldoon	Highly Qualified
James A. Vazzana	Qualified

Rochester City Court

Hon. Stephen T. Miller	Highly Qualified
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The MCBA has a three-tier rating system consisting of “highly qualified,” “qualified” and “not qualified.” The ratings are based on informational survey results completed by hundreds of lawyers and judges who have had professional experience with each person being evaluated, along with in-depth research and interviews by the MCBA’s 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 a person’s qualifications in seeking judgeship. The MCBA encourages the public to assess each person seeking judgeship independently and make up their own mind come Election Day.

Thorough and impartial evaluation process.

The MCBA evaluates candidates 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.

The evaluation process balances two elements that combine to provide a thorough and impartial evaluation.

- *Evaluation by peers.* A survey, representing a cross-section of the legal community, is an element of the evaluation process. This year, 587 lawyers and judges participated in the confidential survey. The survey was completed electronically through third-party vendor Metrix Matrix, and paper evaluations were made available for those without access to a computer.
- *In-depth interviews and research.* The Bar Association's judiciary committee conducted an in-depth interview and research process of each candidate, including analysis of legal writings and reference checks, along with interviews of peers and adversaries. The committee itself is comprised of attorneys who are diverse in race, gender, political affiliation and areas of practice expertise.

To view the rules for the MCBA's judicial evaluations, please go to www.mcba.org/public, 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 2,000 law professionals in Monroe County who are 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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