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*For Immediate Release*

### **Announcing our Judicial Ratings for the 2016 General Election**

**October 26, 2016** – The Judicial Screening Panel of The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL) is pleased to announce its ratings for local judicial candidates in the upcoming general election on November 8. Candidates were eligible to receive the following ratings: "Highly Approved," "Approved," "Not Approved," or "Failed to Appear."

In order to obtain an "Approved" rating, the Panel must be satisfied that the candidate, once on the bench, will 1) demonstrate a commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; 2) possess the integrity, intellect, experience, and temperament required of judicial office; and 3) perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice against or in favor of any person and will not permit discrimination against any minority in his or her courtroom.

In order to obtain a rating of "Highly Approved," the candidate must possess all of the characteristics required for an "Approved" rating to an outstanding degree, and in addition must have demonstrated a commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

#### **Justice of the Supreme Court, First Judicial District**

Rolando T. Acosta - Highly Approved  
James d'Auguste - Highly Approved  
Erika M. Edwards - Highly Approved  
Doris Ling-Cohan - Highly Approved  
Andrea Masley - Highly Approved  
Kelly O'Neill Levy - Highly Approved  
Robert R. Reed - Failed to Appear  
Rosalyn Richter - Highly Approved  
Troy K. Webber - Approved

**Justice of the Supreme Court, Second Judicial District**

Reginald A. Boddie - Failed to Appear  
Katherine A. Levine - Failed to Appear  
Mark I. Partnow - Approved  
Leon Ruchelsman - Failed to Appear  
Philip J. Smallman - Failed to Appear  
Shawndya L. Simpson - Failed to Appear  
Peter P. Sweeney - Failed to Appear

**Justice of the Supreme Court, Eleventh Judicial District**

Cheree A. Buggs - Approved  
Joseph Esposito - Failed to Appear  
Marguerite A. Grays - Failed to Appear  
Ernest F. Hart - Failed to Appear  
Joseph F. Kasper - Failed to Appear  
Margaret A. McGowan - Failed to Appear  
William A. Viscovich - Failed to Appear  
Joseph A. Zayas - Highly Approved

**Justice of the Supreme Court, Twelfth Judicial District**

Doris M. Gonzalez - Approved  
LaTia Martin - Approved  
Donald Miles - Failed to Appear

**Judge of the Civil Court, Kings County**

Dena E. Douglas - Failed to Appear  
Odessa Kennedy - Approved  
Vincent F. Martusciello - Failed to Appear  
John Meringolo - Failed to Appear  
Jacqueline D. Williams - Approved

**Judge of the Civil Court, New York County**

Josh E. Hanshaft - Highly Approved  
Emily Morales-Minerva - Failed to Appear\*

\*It came to the Judicial Screening Panel's attention that the invitation to appear for Ms. Morales-Minera was returned. She later affirmatively reached out to schedule an interview, but it was too late in the process to schedule one.

**Judge of the Civil Court, 2nd Municipal Court District - New York County**

Margaret Pui Yee Chan - Approved

**Judge of the Civil Court, 4th Municipal Court District - New York County**

Judy H. Kim - Highly Approved  
Eileen Rakower - Approved

**Judge of the Civil Court, 6th Municipal Court District - New York County**

Sabrina B. Kraus - Highly Approved

**Judge of the Civil Court, 7th Municipal Court District - New York County**

Shari R. Michels - Failed to Appear

Aija Tingling - Approved

**Judge of the Civil Court, 9th Municipal Court District - New York County**

Lori Sattler - Highly Approved

**Judge of the Civil Court, Bronx County**

Marian C. Doherty - Approved

Patsy Gouldborne - Approved

Robert D. Siano - Failed to Appear

Myrna Socorro - Approved

**Judge of the Civil Court, 2nd Municipal Court District - Bronx County**

Bianka Perez - Failed to Appear

**Judge of the Civil Court, 3rd Municipal Court District - Kings County**

Susan Quirk - Approved

**Judge of the Civil Court, 5th Municipal Court District - Kings County**

Morton M. Avigdor - Failed to Appear

Rachel E. Freier - Failed to Appear

**Judge of the Civil Court, Richmond County**

Kim Dollard - Failed to Appear

Barbara I. Panepinto - Failed to Appear

**Judge of the Civil Court, 2nd Municipal Court District - Richmond County**

Philip S. Straniere - Failed to Appear

**About The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL)**

LeGaL was one of the nation's first bar associations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) legal community and remains one of the largest and most active organizations of its kind in the country. Serving the New York metropolitan area, LeGaL is dedicated to improving the administration of the law, ensuring full equality for members of the LGBT community, and promoting the expertise and advancement of LGBT legal professionals.

Through the LeGaL Foundation, the organization publishes *LGBT Law Notes*, the most comprehensive monthly publication summarizing legal and legislative developments affecting the LGBT community here and abroad, hosts a weekly walk-in pro bono clinic at Manhattan's LGBT Community Center serving hundreds of individuals each year, sponsors the Dr. M.L. "Hank" Henry, Jr. Judicial Fellowship Program, and, among its many other activities, runs the area's only career fair dedicated to first-year LGBT law students.

For more information on LeGaL, visit [le-gal.org](http://le-gal.org).