



the lgbt bar association of greater new york

LeGaL Judiciary Committee Screening Panel Rules for District Attorney Candidates

Approved by the LeGaL Board on October 9, 2013 and amended on February 8, 2017

1. The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (“LeGaL”) will evaluate any candidate for the office of District Attorney who affirmatively seeks LeGaL’s evaluation.
2. The evaluation will be performed by a Screening Panel (the “Panel”) appointed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee. All members of the Panel must be LeGaL members in good standing. Members of the Panel who have more than a professional acquaintance with a candidate or who are affiliated with a candidate’s campaign shall be recused, to the extent the Committee deems appropriate. The Panel will act by majority vote.
3. All candidates who seek LeGaL’s evaluation will be asked to submit a completed copy of their Uniform Judicial Questionnaire. The Committee will accept forms that are substantially similar to the Uniform Judicial Questionnaire.
4. The Panel may solicit comments from the general membership of LeGaL about each of the candidates.
5. The Panel will interview each candidate. The evaluation process, including but not limited to all materials, deliberations, proceedings and comments from LeGaL members, shall be kept confidential.
6. Following the Panel’s evaluation, candidates will be rated as “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 in office, 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 elected office; and
- 3) perform his or her duties without bias or prejudice against or in favor of any person and will not permit discrimination against any minority by his/her office.

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.

7. A candidate shall not be entitled to receive a rating of “Highly Approved” in the event that any two members of the Panel vote to give such candidate a “Not Approved” rating.
8. The Panel will notify all candidates of the result of its evaluation by letter and publish that result by issuing a press release of its ratings to the New York Law Journal. In the event that a candidate receives a “Not Approved” rating, the candidate will be notified of the rating by overnight mail.
9. Candidates may appeal a “Not Approved” rating to the Board of Directors of LeGaL. Candidates may not appeal an “Approved” rating. Appeals must be initiated within four days of the postmark date of notification, and shall consist of a concise statement of the grounds for the appeal. The Board shall not re-interview the candidate, but shall make any other investigation it deems appropriate. If the Board believes an error has been committed, it shall direct the Chair and Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee to interview the candidate, and then report on the interview to the Board, which shall render a decision. There shall be no time limitation placed on the Board’s consideration of an appeal, notwithstanding the time exigencies of any particular selection process.
10. Ratings are valid for the current election cycle and the following year’s election cycle and applicable only to the office originally sought. Candidates may not seek a re-evaluation for the same position within that two-year period.
