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For Immediate Release

Announcing our Judicial Ratings for 2016 Civil Court Primaries

September 8, 2016 – The Judicial Screening Panel of The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL) is pleased to announce its ratings for judicial candidates in the upcoming New York City Civil Court Democratic Party primaries on Tuesday, September 13. 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.

**Judge, Kings County
3rd Municipal Court District**

Edward Irizarry - Failed to Appear
Susan Quirk - Approved

**Judge, Kings County
5th Municipal Court District**

Rachel E. Freier - Failed to Appear
Morton M. Avigdor - Failed to Appear
Jill Epstein - Failed to Appear

**Judge, New York County
6th Municipal Court District**

Susan F. Avery - Not Approved
Sabrina B. Kraus - Highly Approved

Judge, Kings County

Consuelo M. Melendez - Highly Approved

Odessa Kennedy – Approved

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.