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*For Immediate Release*

**Announcing our Ratings for 2017 Kings County Civil Court and District Attorney  
Primaries**

**September 9, 2017** – The Judicial Screening Panel of The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL) is pleased to announce its ratings for candidates in the upcoming Kings County Civil Court and District Attorney Democratic Party primaries on Tuesday, September 12. 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.

**Civil Court, 6th Municipal District**

Elena Baron – Failed to Appear  
Rupert V. Barry – Failed to Appear  
Derefim B. Neckles – Failed to Appear  
Hemalee J. Patel – Highly Approved

**Civil Court, Countywide**

Frederick C. Arriaga – Highly Approved  
Ellen Edwards – Failed to Appear  
Patria Frias-Colon – Failed to Appear  
Patrick J. Hayes – Failed to Appear  
Isiris Isela Isaac – Failed to Appear  
Thomas J. Kennedy – Failed to Appear  
Connie M. Melendez – Highly Approved

John K. O'Hara – Failed to Appear  
David C. Pepper – Approved  
Sandra Elena Roper – Failed to Appear  
Robin K. Sheares – Failed to Appear

**District Attorney**

Ama Dwimoh – Failed to Appear  
Marc Fliedner – Failed to Appear  
Patricia L. Gatling – Failed to Appear  
Vincent J. Gentile – Failed to Appear  
Eric Gonzalez – Failed to Appear  
Anne J. Swern – 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 provides vital legal services to hundreds of members of the LGBT community each year and hosts a network of free weekly walk-in legal clinics, anchored by the flagship at Manhattan's LGBT Community Center. The Foundation also publishes *LGBT Law Notes*, the most comprehensive monthly publication summarizing legal developments affecting the LGBT community here and abroad, sponsors the Dr. M. L. "Hank" Henry, Jr. Judicial Fellowship Program, and 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).