



Press Release – May 15, 2007

Greater Rochester Association For Women Attorneys

For more information, contact:

Anita Pelletier, GRAWA Media Chair

(585) 263-1164 or news@grawa.org

Judicial Candidate Evaluations Released By GRAWA

The Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) of the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys (GRAWA) convened recently to review the qualifications of judicial candidates. GRAWA does not endorse or recommend any candidate.

GRAWA's evaluation process includes reviewing a detailed questionnaire completed by the candidate, reviewing writing samples, conducting reference checks and holding in depth interviews with each candidate. Evaluation criteria includes experience; integrity; professional competence; judicial temperament; and service to the law and contribution to the effective administration of justice and/or the community. Evaluation criteria for a candidate currently sitting as a judge also includes: preparation, attentiveness and control over judicial proceedings; judicial management skills; courtesy to litigants, counsel and court personnel; public disciplinary sanctions; and quality of judicial opinions.

Candidates are rated "highly qualified," "qualified" and "not qualified." A rating of "commended" is also given to those candidates who have demonstrated outstanding sensitivity to issues of gender bias, women and other minorities. GRAWA's ratings for the 2007 judicial candidates are as follows:

New York State Supreme Court, Seventh Judicial District (one seat)

Hon. John J. Ark – Highly Qualified

Monroe County Family Court – 7th Judicial District (one seat)

Melissa L. Barrett, Esq. – Not Qualified

Peter A. Essley, Esq. - Qualified

Sidney T. Farber, Esq. - Qualified

Valerie R. Johnson, Esq. - Qualified

Joseph R. Nesser, Esq. - Highly Qualified

Rochester City Court (one seat)

Hon. Charles F. Crimi, Jr. – Highly Qualified

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The Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys is a chapter of the Women's Bar Association for the State of New York. Launched in October 1980 through an "informational meeting," GRAWA brought together about 50 female attorneys (of 150 locally) in its initial months. Today the chapter has over 250 members - mostly women, but men are also allowed to join. GRAWA's mission is to promote the advancement of the status of women in society and of women in the legal profession; promote the fair and equal administration of justice; and act as a unified voice for its members -with respect to issues of statewide, national and international significance to women generally and to women attorneys in particular.