

Press Release – June 21, 2023

Women's Bar Association Releases Judicial Evaluations

For more information, contact: info@grawa.org



A Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

The Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) of the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys (GRAWA) convened recently to review the qualifications of the candidates running for seats on the Monroe County Family Court and Rochester City Court.

The GRAWA JEC is a non-partisan group representing a cross-section of attorneys in the greater Rochester area. The attorneys on the Committee come from a variety of political backgrounds, purposefully balanced, and work for a variety of public and private firms and agencies which practice in relevant courts.

GRAWA's evaluation process includes reviewing a detailed questionnaire completed by the candidate, reviewing writing samples, conducting reference checks and holding an in-depth interview with each candidate. Evaluation criteria include experience, integrity, professional competence, judicial temperament, service to the law and contribution to the effective administration of justice and service to the community. Evaluation criteria for a candidate currently sitting as a judge also include: 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 who participate in the evaluation process are rated "exceptionally well qualified," "well qualified," "qualified," or "not qualified." A rating of "commended" is also given to those candidates who have demonstrated outstanding sensitivity to issues of women, minorities, and bias. Candidates who were invited to participate in the evaluation process, but failed to participate may be found "not recommended for refusal to participate," or "not rated for a legitimate reason" (at the discretion of the JEC and for those candidates whom the JEC is unable to evaluate because of, for example, the JEC's inability to obtain sufficient information concerning a candidate's qualifications).

GRAWA's ratings for the 2023 judicial candidates are as follows:

Monroe County Family Court

Maroun Ajaka, Esq.	Qualified
Hon. Maria Cubillos Reed	Well Qualified and Commended
Hon. Dandrea Ruhlmann	Well Qualified
Kristine Demo-Vazquez, Esq.	Qualified (rated in 2022)

Rochester City Court

Hon. Jack Elliot	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Constance Patterson, Esq.	Qualified and Commended
Campbell Roth, Esq.	Qualified

GRAWA is a chapter of the Women's Bar Association for the State of New York. Launched in October 1983, the chapter currently has more than 200 members. GRAWA's mission is to advocate for the professional development and well-being of all women attorneys, increase representation and opportunities for all women in the legal profession, engage in open dialogue and seek perspective from individuals with diverse backgrounds, facilitate fair and equal justice for all, and act as a united voice for members to promote inclusive policies and legislation of statewide, national, and international significance, while performing all work with an intersectional lens.