



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

## Women's Bar Association Releases Judicial Evaluations

For more information, contact: [info@grawa.org](mailto:info@grawa.org)

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 New York State Supreme Court. This past Spring, the JEC reviewed the qualifications of the candidates running for seats on the Monroe County Family Court and Rochester City Court as well.

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:

### **New York State Supreme Court**

Margot J. Garant, Esq.

Not recommended for refusal to participate in the evaluation process

Hon. Alex R. Renzi

Not recommended for refusal to participate in the evaluation process

Joe Waldorf, Esq.

Well Qualified

### **Monroe County Family Court**

Maroun G. Ajaka, Esq.

Qualified (rated in Spring 2023)

Hon. Maria J. Cubillos Reed

Well Qualified and Commended (rated in Spring 2023)

Hon. Dandrea L. Ruhlmann

Well Qualified (rated in Spring 2023)

Kristine M. Demo-Vazquez, Esq.

Qualified (rated in Fall 2022)

### **Rochester City Court**

Hon. Jack Elliott

Exceptionally Well Qualified (rated in Spring 2023)

Hon. Constance A. Patterson

Qualified and Commended (rated in Spring 2023) (*appointed Oct. 2023*)

Campbell P. Roth, Esq.

Qualified (rated in Spring 2023)

*GRAWA is a chapter of the Women's Bar Association of 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.*