



Greater Rochester Association
for Women Attorneys

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Women’s Bar Association Releases Judicial Evaluations

The Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) of the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys (GRAWA) convened recently to review the qualifications of seven candidates running for seats on the New York State Supreme Court, Monroe County Court, and Rochester City Court. The Committee found all of the candidates to be qualified or highly qualified except Livingston County District Attorney Thomas E. Moran, who refused to participate in the evaluation process.

The GRAWA Judicial Evaluation Committee is a non-partisan group representing a cross-section of women 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 the 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; 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 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 “highly qualified,” “qualified” or “not qualified.” A rating of “commended” is also given to those candidates who have demonstrated outstanding sensitivity to issues of gender bias, women and minorities. Because GRAWA believes that the judicial evaluation process provides essential information to voters in the community, who often have little contact with the court system, candidates who refuse to be evaluated are given a rating of “not recommended for refusal to participate.”

GRAWA’s ratings for the 2011 judicial candidates are as follows:

New York State Supreme Court, Seventh Judicial District (two seats)

Hon. Nancy E. Smith	Highly qualified and commended
Thomas E. Moran	Not recommended for refusal to participate in the evaluation process

Monroe County Court (two seats)

Douglas A. Randall	Highly qualified and commended
Sandra J. Doorley	Highly qualified
Paul D. Irving	Qualified
Gino M. Nitti	Qualified

Rochester City Court (one seat)

Hon. Melchor E. Castro	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 encouraged 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.