

Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions

Statement of Ethical Guidelines for use of Commission's rating

Voters will have greater confidence in the judicial election process if they know that judicial candidates were screened by independent screening panels and found to possess the qualities necessary for effective judicial performance. Candidates found "qualified" for election to judicial office by their local Part 150 qualification commission are therefore encouraged to make that fact known to the voting public in campaign literature and advertisements supporting their candidacy.

The commissions do not publicly disclose the reasons why a person has been listed as "not qualified" or why a person is not listed at all. Therefore, judicial candidates should not state or imply any reason why another candidate falls into either of those two categories. If, however, the reason becomes a matter of public record by affirmative statement of the affected individual, then other judicial candidates may refer to that fact.

The candidate may use the finding of the commission only in campaign literature and advertisements supporting his or her candidacy and only during the time period during which the candidate is campaigning for the judicial office for which he or she was found to be qualified.

A candidate seeking additional guidance in the permitted use of a commission's rating may contact the Judicial Campaign Ethics Center (1-888-600-5232) or contactJCEC@courts.state.ny.us.