



**Appellate Division  
Supreme Court of the State of New York  
Second Judicial Department**

**Independent Judicial Election  
Qualification Commissions  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**August 31, 2016**

**Second Judicial Department Independent Judicial  
Election Qualification Commissions Announce  
2016 Final List of Candidate Ratings**

**(BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, N.Y.)** Pursuant to Part 150 of the Rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts, Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions ("IJEQCs") have been established in each of the judicial districts of New York State. The IJEQCs are a statewide network of independent screening panels for judicial candidates. Each IJEQC is charged with the responsibility of evaluating the qualifications of candidates within its judicial district who submit a questionnaire and are seeking election to the following New York State Courts: Supreme, County, Surrogate's, Family, New York City Civil, District, and City.

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After careful consideration, the Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions for the Second Judicial Department have recently announced the following ratings for candidates for judicial offices within the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts.

Any candidate found highly qualified or qualified for election to a judicial office is deemed so qualified for that judicial office for three years in the absence of any new information that may reflect adversely upon his or her qualifications and background. Any candidate not found qualified for election to judicial office is deemed to be not qualified for that judicial office for one year from the date of submission of the candidate’s application to the commission.

### **Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions 2016 Final List of Rated Candidates**

<u><b>Judicial District</b></u>	<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Judicial Position</b></u>	<u><b>Rating</b></u>
2nd JD	Montelione, Richard J.	Supreme Court Justice	Qualified
2nd JD	Partnow, Mark	Supreme Court Justice	Highly Qualified
2nd JD	Ruchelsman, Leon	Supreme Court Justice	Highly Qualified

<u><b>Judicial District</b></u>	<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Judicial Position</b></u>	<u><b>Rating</b></u>
9th JD	Brockett, Steven	Judge of the County Court	Highly Qualified
9th JD	Freehill, Robert H.	Judge of the County Court	Qualified

<u><b>Judicial District</b></u>	<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Judicial Position</b></u>	<u><b>Rating</b></u>
10th JD	Lorintz, Joseph H.	Supreme Court Justice	Highly Qualified

<u><b>Judicial District</b></u>	<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Judicial Position</b></u>	<u><b>Rating</b></u>
11th JD	Buggs, Cheree A.	Supreme Court Justice	Highly Qualified
11th JD	Grays, Marguerite	Supreme Court Justice	Highly Qualified
11th JD	Hart, Ernest F.	Supreme Court Justice	Qualified
11th JD	Hesse, Candace	Supreme Court Justice	Qualified
11th JD	Lane, Peter F.	Supreme Court Justice	Highly Qualified
11th JD	Leverett, Ulysses B.	Supreme Court Justice	Highly Qualified
11th JD	Love, Laurence L.	Supreme Court Justice	Highly Qualified
11th JD	Newton, Elizabeth J.	Supreme Court Justice	Not Qualified
11th JD	Unger, Sally E.	Supreme Court Justice	Qualified

<b><u>Judicial District</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Judicial Position</u></b>	<b><u>Rating</u></b>
11th JD	Vallone, Peter F. (Jr.)	Supreme Court Justice	Qualified
11th JD	Ventura, Lourdes M.	Supreme Court Justice	Qualified
11th JD	Viscovich, William A.	Supreme Court Justice	Highly Qualified
11th JD	Zayas, Joseph A.	Supreme Court Justice	Highly Qualified
11th JD	Katsanos, John C.V.	Judge of the Civil Court	Qualified
11th JD	Lane, Peter F.	Judge of the Civil Court	Highly Qualified
11th JD	Muir, Maurice E.	Judge of the Civil Court	Qualified
11th JD	Ventura, Lourdes M.	Judge of the Civil Court	Qualified
11th JD	Viscovich, William A.	Judge of the Civil Court	Highly Qualified
11th JD	Muir, Maurice E.	Judge of the Family Court	Qualified

For a list of 2015 and 2014 rated candidates and information regarding the evaluation process, visit the IJEQC web page at <http://www.ny-ijeqc.org> or contact Vivian Dearie by email at [vdearie@nycourts.gov](mailto:vdearie@nycourts.gov) or by calling 347-401-9248.

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