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**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ISSUES EVALUATIONS FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES
IN CONTESTED NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION**

SAN DIEGO (September 28, 2020) —The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) announced its evaluations for two candidates vying for a judicial seat in San Diego Superior Court Department 30 in the November 3, 2020 election.

For more than 40 years, the SDCBA has evaluated candidates in contested judicial elections as a public service because there is very little information on judicial candidates that is readily available to the public. The SDCBA's evaluations do not compare opposing candidates nor do they endorse or oppose the election of particular candidates or imply the SDCBA's support of a particular candidate. In accordance with the SDCBA's Judicial Election Evaluation Committee (JEEC) Rules, each candidate was evaluated on that candidate's individual merit and given one of five evaluations:

- **"Exceptionally Qualified"**: Presently possessing exceptional professional ability, experience, competence, integrity and/or temperament indicating an exceptional ability to perform the judicial function.
- **"Well Qualified"**: Presently possessing a high-level professional ability, experience, competence, integrity and/or temperament indicating high-level ability to perform the judicial function.
- **"Qualified"**: Presently possessing professional ability, experience, competence, integrity and/or temperament indicating ability to perform the judicial function.
- **"Lacking Qualifications"**: Presently not possessing professional ability, experience, competence, integrity and/or temperament indicating ability to perform the judicial function.
- **"Unable to Evaluate"**: If the Committee does not receive sufficient information from persons who know a candidate to fairly and adequately evaluate a candidate's ability to perform the judicial function, the candidate may be deemed Unable to Evaluate.

The SDCBA JEEC evaluations for the candidates in the contested judicial election are as follows:

San Diego County Superior Court Judge – Office No. 30

Tim Nader	WELL QUALIFIED
Paul Starita	EXCEPTIONALLY QUALIFIED

State court judges in California serve six-year terms and are elected by county voters on a nonpartisan ballot at a general election, and vacancies are filled through appointment by the Governor. At the end of each term, judges must seek re-election, and attorneys seeking judgeships are able to run for one of the positions up for re-election.

The JEEC prepares its evaluations by actively gathering information on each candidate from a wide variety of sources, including broad feedback from the community and information received from each

candidate. The JEEC follows a detailed and confidential process in determining its evaluations, modeled after the California State Bar's Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation process used when candidates are appointed by the Governor. Judicial candidates may choose not to participate in the evaluation process, however, the JEEC will provide an evaluation if there is enough information available.

Judicial candidates are evaluated on 15 different factors including fairness and objectivity; integrity and honesty; decisiveness; judgment and common sense; judicial temperament; knowledge of the law; professional reputation; trial experience; intellect and ability; tolerance and lack of bias; caseload management; courtesy and patience; writing and research skills; and compassion and understanding. Factors that are not part of the evaluation process: religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, race, gender, disability, nor type of law practiced.

"Our goal in providing evaluations of judicial candidates is to help San Diegans make informed decisions when voting for candidates running to be a judge," said Johanna Schiavoni, 2020 SDCBA President. "As the largest law-related organization in San Diego County, we seek to assist voters by providing neutral evaluations of judicial candidates based on a rigorous vetting process. The JEEC, which prepares the evaluations, includes attorneys from broadly diverse backgrounds and professional experiences, to reflect a wide set of viewpoints in evaluating candidates running for judicial office."

The JEEC was first established in 1978 and is comprised of 21 members of the SDCBA who represent a diverse cross-section of San Diego's legal community and come from a variety of practice areas, including lawyers from the public and private sectors, civil and criminal law practitioners, in-house counsel, sole practitioners and members of small, medium and large law firms. For more on the SDCBA's judicial candidate evaluation process, please visit www.sdcba.org/judicial-evaluations-nov-3-2020.

The San Diego County Bar Association is the region's largest law-related organization, dedicated to serving the needs of all attorneys and the legal community in San Diego County.

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