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SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION EVALUATIONS FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES
IN NOVEMBER ELECTION

SAN DIEGO (October 25, 2018) — The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) is re-releasing its evaluations for two candidates vying for a San Diego Superior Court judicial seat in the upcoming November 6 election.

The judicial candidate evaluations are as follows:

Matthew Brower
Hon. Gary Kreep

Qualified
Lacking Qualifications

As a public service, the SDCBA evaluates candidates in contested judicial elections, since there is very little information on judicial candidates readily available. The SDCBA does not compare opposing candidates nor endorse or oppose the election of particular candidates. All 7 candidates for judicial office in the primary election were given evaluations by the SDCBA, and the SDCBA has only re-released the evaluations for the one remaining contested seat.

In accordance with the SDCBA's Judicial Election Evaluation Committee (JEEC) rules, each candidate was evaluated on his or her own individual merit and given one of four evaluations as follows:

Exceptionally Qualified: Presently possessing extraordinary professional ability, experience, competence, integrity and/or temperament indicating an ability to perform the judicial function.

Well Qualified: Presently possessing exceptional professional ability, experience, competence, integrity and/or temperament indicating exceptional 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.

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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 SDCBA's Judicial Election Evaluation Committee (JEEC) prepares the Association's evaluations and actively gathers 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 (JNE) process used when candidates are appointed by the Governor.

"Judges are an integral part of our community and our democracy. Often voters are looking for information on the candidates who are running for these important positions," said Kristin Rizzo, 2018 SDCBA President. "As lawyers, we have significant knowledge of our justice system and by sharing our evaluations, we hope to aid our fellow San Diego voters in making informed decisions in judicial races."

Judicial candidates are evaluated on 15 different factors including fairness and objectivity; integrity and honesty; decisiveness; judgement 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. Religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, race, gender, disability and type of law practiced are not factors in the evaluation process.

The SDCBA's evaluations are not endorsements and do not imply the Association's support of a particular candidate. Judicial candidates may choose not to participate in the evaluation process, however, the JEEC is still able to provide an evaluation if there is enough information available. For more on the SDCBA's judicial candidate evaluation process, you can review the committee's rules at www.sdcba.org/judicialevaluations.

The San Diego County Bar Association is the region's largest law-related organization and the hub of the city's legal community, headquartered in downtown San Diego

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