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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR REPORTS EVALUATIONS FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES**

Two Current Judges and Two Attorney Candidates Evaluated as Qualified to Serve

SAN DIEGO (May 11, 2016) – Two current judges and two attorney judicial candidates were evaluated as “Qualified” to serve as judges by the San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA). The SDCBA evaluates candidates in contested judicial elections as a service to voters, as there is little information available publicly about candidates.

In the 2016 primary election there are two judicial positions up for re-election, with Judge Keri G. Katz challenged by attorney Carla Keehn, and Judge James Mangione challenged by attorney Paul Ware. 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 evaluated each of the four candidates as Qualified based on one of the two following standards:

"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.

The SDCBA’s evaluations are not endorsements and do not imply the Association’s support of a particular candidate, as the SDCBA does not compare opposing candidates as part of the evaluation process. The evaluations are not a measure of each candidate’s skill set or degree of expertise, but merely an assertion as to whether or not the candidate has the basic skills necessary to serve as a judge at this time.

To prepare its evaluations, the SDCBA’s Judicial Election Evaluation Committee (JEEC) actively seeks information on each candidate from a wide variety of sources including soliciting information from members of the legal community and gathering information directly from each candidate. The JEEC follows a detailed and confidential process in determining evaluations, modeled after the California State Bar’s Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation (JNE) process used when candidates are appointed by the Governor.

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Evaluations are based on the following factors: administrative ability, compassion and understanding, courtesy and patience, decisiveness, fairness and objectivity, industry and work habits, integrity and honesty, intellect and ability, judgement and common sense, judicial temperament, knowledge of the law, professional reputation, trial experience, writing and research skills, and any other factor that might affect the candidate's ability to serve as a judge. If a candidate has been evaluated by the JEEC in a prior election, the Committee might also consider the earlier evaluation in conjunction with its current evaluation. Race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability and political affiliation are not considered during the evaluation process.

The JEEC is comprised of 21 SDCBA members who represent a cross-section of San Diego's legal community by gender and ethnicity, including lawyers from the public and private sectors, civil and criminal law practitioners, corporate counsel, sole practitioners and members of small, medium and large firms. For more information on the SDCBA's Judicial Evaluation process, visit 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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