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**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION REPORTS EVALUATIONS FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES
IN JUNE 5 PRIMARY ELECTION**

SAN DIEGO (May 1, 2018) — The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) announced its evaluations for seven candidates vying for two San Diego Superior Court judicial seats in the June 5th primary election.

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. Each candidate is 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.

Here are the evaluations for the candidates in contested judicial elections for 2018:

Matthew Brower	Qualified
Hon. Herbert J. Exarhos	Exceptionally Qualified
Hon. Gary G. Kreep	Lacking Qualifications
Steve Miller	Qualified
Timothy J. Nader	Well Qualified
Vicki Rothman	Qualified
Victor Manuel Torres	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. In the 2018 election, Vicki Rothman is running against current San Diego Superior Court Judge Hon. Herbert Exarhos, and Matthew Brower, Steve Miller, Timothy Nader and Victor Torres are running against current San Diego Superior Court Judge Hon. Gary Kreep.

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.

All 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.

"It is important that voters make informed decisions when electing judicial officers," said Kristin Rizzo, 2018 SDCBA President. "Attorneys have particular knowledge of our justice system, and what an important role judges have in our communities. We hope that our evaluations provide some guidance for San Diego voters who may be unsure who to vote for in contested judicial elections."

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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