



## Composition of the Judicial Election Evaluation Committee

The Committee is comprised of 21 members who represent a cross-section of our diverse legal community. The members of the committee include a retired judicial officer, an attorney in house at a nonprofit, a deputy public defender, two private practitioners who practice criminal defense law, a deputy district attorney, a deputy city attorney, a deputy attorney general, a federal prosecutor, an attorney from the U.S. military, and eleven attorneys from private law firms including small, medium, and large firms, which cover a range of practice areas, including personal injury, employment law, family law, estate planning, probate and trust administration, real estate and business litigation, business transactions, environmental compliance and litigation, and manufacturing and premises liability. The Committee members reflect a broad spectrum of demographic diversity and come from all regions of San Diego County.

### JEEC Rules addressing potential conflicts of interest

Rule 4 of the Judicial Election Evaluation Committee rules addresses conflicts of interest and disqualification for Committee members.

#### 4.1 Conflicts of Interest of Committee Members

In order to avoid conflicts of interest that may interfere or appear to interfere with the Committee's ability to impartially assess the qualifications of a candidate for judicial office, any member must immediately disclose to the Chair the nature of any significant present or past familial, professional, business, social, political, or other relationship with a candidate, whether direct or indirect.

#### 4.2 Disqualification from Participation

If a Committee member or the Chair determines that a relationship would unduly influence or appear to influence the member's consideration of a candidate's qualifications, the Committee member shall refrain from the investigating or evaluating the candidate and from attempting to influence any other member of the Committee. Factors to be considered in making the determination include the date of the relationship, its duration, and whether it is more than casual or incidental. If the Committee member determines that the relationship does not require disqualification and the Chair disagrees, the determination of the Chair prevails.

#### 4.3 Procedures for Disqualification Raised by Judicial Candidates

The initial letter from the Committee Chair to all judicial candidates shall include a list of Committee members. In response to this letter, candidates may submit a written request within seven days seeking the disqualification of any Committee member they believe cannot conduct an impartial evaluation. Committee members may also disqualify themselves on the same basis.

The Committee Chair shall rule on all requests for disqualification and shall notify the candidate in writing of the decision.

#### **4.4 Participation**

All candidates running in a judicial election are approached by the Committee Chair to participate in the JEEC process. Although the process is voluntary, the JEEC reserves the right to evaluate a candidate's ability to perform the judicial function even if the candidate chooses not to voluntarily participate, and base its evaluation on other information received during the investigation pursuant to Section 5 (below).