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For Immediate Release

Announcing our 2014 Judicial Ratings for Civil Court Primaries

August 28, 2014 – The Judicial Screening Panel of The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL) is pleased to announce its ratings for judicial candidates in the upcoming Civil Court primaries on September 9. Candidates were eligible to receive the following ratings: "Highly Approved," "Approved," "Not Approved," or "Failed to Appear."

In order to obtain an "Approved" rating, the Panel must be satisfied that the candidate, once on the bench, will: 1) demonstrate a commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; 2) possess the integrity, intellect, experience, and temperament required of judicial office; and 3) perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice against or in favor of any person and will not permit discrimination against any minority in his or her courtroom.

In order to obtain a rating of "Highly Approved," the candidate must possess all of the characteristics required for an "Approved" rating to an outstanding degree, and in addition must have demonstrated a commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Judge of the Civil Court – District (8th Municipal Court District – New York)

Jose A. Padilla, Jr. – Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court – District (10th Municipal Court District – New York)

J. Mabelle Sweeting – Highly Approved

Judge of the Civil Court – District (2nd Municipal Court District – Bronx)

Lizbeth Gonzalez – Highly Approved

Robert Siano – Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court – District (2nd Municipal Court District – Kings)

Rupert V. Barry - Approved

Cenceria P. Edwards - Approved

Judge of the Civil Court – District (3rd Municipal Court District – Kings)

Rosemarie Montalbano - Approved

Judge of the Civil Court – District (6th Municipal Court District – Kings)

Sharon Clarke – Failed to Appear
Isiris Isela Isaac – Highly Approved
Diana J. Szochet - Approved

Judge of the Civil Court – District (7th Municipal Court District – Kings)

Lizette Colon - Approved

Judge of the Civil Court – District (8th Municipal Court District – Kings)

Andrew S. Borrok - Approved

Judge of the Civil Court – District (1st Municipal Court District – Queens)

Joseph Esposito – Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court – County (New York)

Arlene P. Bluth – Highly Approved
Louis L. Nock – Approved

Judge of the Civil Court – County (Bronx)

Brenda Rivera – Failed to Appear
Harry Hertzberg – Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court – County (Kings)

Evelyn J. Laporte - Approved
Vincent F. Martusciello – Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court – County (Queens)

Mojgan Cohanin Lancman – Failed to Appear

About The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL)

LeGaL was one of the nation's first bar associations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) legal community and remains one of the largest and most active organizations of its kind in the country. Serving the New York metropolitan area, LeGaL is dedicated to improving the administration of the law, ensuring full equality for members of the LGBT community, and promoting the expertise and advancement of LGBT legal professionals.

Through the LeGaL Foundation, the organization publishes *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes*, the most comprehensive monthly publication summarizing legal and legislative developments affecting the LGBT community here and abroad, conducts a weekly walk-in pro bono clinic at Manhattan's LGBT Community Center serving hundreds of individuals each year, a monthly clinic on Long Island, twice monthly clinics in Brooklyn and the Bronx, a collaborative Life Planning Clinic with NYLAG's LGBT Law Project, sponsors the Dr. M.L. Hank Henry, Jr. Fund for Judicial Fellowships and, among its many other activities, runs the area's only career fair dedicated to first-year LGBT law students. For more information on LeGaL, visit le-gal.org.