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For Immediate Release

Announcing our Judicial Ratings for the 2015 General Election

October 29, 2015 – The Judicial Screening Panel of The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL) is pleased to announce its ratings for local judicial candidates in the upcoming general election on November 3. 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.

Justice of the Supreme Court - First Judicial District

Tanya Kennedy - Approved
Raymond Bruce - Failed to Appear
Arthur Engoron - Approved
Arlene Bluth - Highly Approved
Barbara Kapnick - Failed to Appear

Justice of the Supreme Court - Second Judicial District

Thomas P. Aliotta - Failed to Appear
Genine D. Edwards - Failed to Appear
Pamela L. Fisher - Approved
Noach Dear - Not Approved
Debra Silber - Approved

Justice of the Supreme Court – Eleventh Judicial District

Martin E. Ritholtz - Failed to Appear
Peter J. O'Donoghue - Failed to Appear
Anthony Caronna - Failed to Appear

Duane A. Hart - Failed to Appear

Justice of the Supreme Court - Twelfth Judicial District

Sallie Manzabette-Daniels - Failed to Appear

Steve Mayo - Failed to Appear

Dianne Renwick - Approved

Mitchell J. Danziger - Approved

Guy T. Parisi - Failed to Appear

Lizbeth Gonzalez - Highly Approved

Christopher B. Garvey - Failed to Appear

Robert T. Johnson - Failed to Appear

Ruben Franco - Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court - New York County

Ta-Tanisha James - Approved

Judge of the Civil Court - 2nd Municipal Court District - New York

Lyle E. Frank - Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court - 8th Municipal Court District - New York

Lisa S. Headley - Highly Approved

Judge of the Civil Court - Kings County

Lorna J. McAllister - Failed to Appear

Vincent F. Martusciello - Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court – 2nd Municipal Court District - Kings

Dweynie E. Paul - Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court - 6th Municipal Court District - Kings

Michael Gerstein - Highly Approved

Judge of the Civil Court - 7th Municipal Court District - Kings

Carolyn Walker-Diallo - Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court - Queens County

Laurentina S. McKetney Butler - Failed to Appear

Michael A. O'Reilly - Failed to Appear

Maureen A. Healy - Failed to Appear

Joseph F. Kasper - Failed to Appear

Ushir Pandit-Durant - Failed to Appear

Kevin J. Hanratty - Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court - 3rd Municipal Court District - Queens

Peter F. Vallone, Jr. - Failed to Appear

Judge of the Civil Court - Bronx County

Ben R. Barbato - Failed to Appear

Marsha D. Michael - 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, along with similar clinics in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Newark and a collaborative Life Planning Clinic with NYLAG's LGBTQ 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.