DETROIT BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Headline: Detroit Bar Association Releases 2026 Judicial Candidate Ratings

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The Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee of the Detroit Bar Association completed its ratings of non-participating judicial candidates officially running for open seats in the courts of Wayne County for the 2026 election cycle. A detailed request to participate in the evaluation process was sent to each judicial candidate using the email address listed in the State Bar of Michigan directory. If a candidate does not participate, the Committee retains discretion to assign a rating if sufficient information is otherwise available.

The Committee is comprised of 23 attorneys from the Detroit Metropolitan area who evaluated the fitness of each candidate for judicial office based upon the candidate's legal ability (scholarship, analytical skills, judgment, clarity of expression), trial experience, integrity, honesty, judicial temperament (fairness, open-mindedness, courtesy, patience), physical and mental health, and professional reputation, without regard to party affiliation, race, gender, sexual orientation, or creed. Ratings for non-participating judicial candidates are given after determining if there is sufficient information to review. The ratings refer only to a candidate's qualifications for the position of judge in the court that the candidate is seeking, and do not in any way refer to a candidate's qualifications as a practicing attorney. The ratings reflect the collective opinion of the Committee and not the Detroit Bar Association as a whole. The ratings for individual candidates are set forth below.

The Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee categories of ratings are: **Outstanding, Well Qualified, Qualified, Not Qualified** or **No Rating/ Did Not Participate.** The standards for ratings can be found at Judicial Candidate Ratings Guide

Candidate Name	Candidate Rating
1ST DISTRICT JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS – INCUMBENT- 6 YEAR TERM (3) POSITIONS	
Mariam Saad Bazzi (I)	Qualified
Anica Letica (I)	Well Qualified
3RD CIRCUIT JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (16) POSITIONS	
Chandra W. Baker-Robinson (I)	Well Qualified
Christopher M. Blount (I)	Well Qualified
Bradley L. Cobb (I)	Well Qualified
Chris Dingell (I)	Well Qualified
Charlene M. Elder (I)	Well Qualified
Helal A. Farhat (I)	Well Qualified
Nicole N. Goodson (I)	Well Qualified
Edward J. Joseph (I)	No Rating
Mary Beth Kelly (I)	Well Qualified
Cylenthia LaToye Miller (I)	Not Qualified

Carla G. Testani (I)	Well Qualified
Margaret M. Van Houten (I)	Qualified
Shannon Nicol Walker (I)	Well Qualified
3RD CIRCUIT JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT -NON-INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Shakira Lynn Hawkins	No Rating
3RD CIRCUIT JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT -INCUMBENT – PARTIAL TERM ENDING 01/01/2031 (1) POSITION	
Aliyah S. Sabree (I)	Well Qualified
36TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (6) POSITIONS	
Demetria Brue (I)	No Rating
E. Lynise Bryant (I)	Well Qualified
Adrienne Hinnant-Johnson (I)	Well Qualified
Shannon A. Holmes (I)	Well Qualified
Kenneth J. King (I)	Not Qualified
Millicent D. Sherman (I)	Well Qualified
36TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT NON-INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (3) POSITIONS	
William Burton, Jr	No Rating
36TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT – PARTIAL TERM ENDING 01/01/2031 (3) POSITIONS	
Herman Griffin IV (I)	No Rating
Chastity A. Youngblood (I)	Qualified
35TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Jim Plakas (I)	Well Qualified
34TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Lisa Martin (I)	Well Qualified
32A DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Rebekah Ruth Coleman (I)	Well Qualified
31ST DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Mark Michael Koroi	No Rating
28TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Elisabeth M. Mullins (I)	Well Qualified
24TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
John T. Courtright (I)	No Rating
23RD DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Brittany A. Johnson (I)	Qualified
21ST DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -NON-INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Nicholas Opalewski	Qualified

20TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Mark J. Plawecki (I)	Well Qualified
19TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Mark W. Somers (I)	Not Qualified
18TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Mark A. McConnell (I)	Well Qualified
17TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Krista Haroutunian (I)	Well Qualified
16TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Sean Patrick Kavanagh (I)	Well Qualified

About the Detroit Bar Association: The Detroit Bar Association is a membership organization comprising of attorneys, judges, law students, and other legal professionals. Founded in 1836, it is the oldest Bar Association in Michigan and one of the oldest in the United States. It serves Detroit's legal community through networking, professional development and community service. For more information contact: Executive Director Tracey Cooley, tcooley@detroitlawyer.org, 734.969.5681, www.detroitlawyer.org.

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