DETROIT BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Headline: Detroit Bar Association Releases 2026 Judicial Candidate Ratings

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Contact: Tracey Cooley, Detroit Bar Association Executive Director
tcooley@detroitlawyer.org

The Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee of the Detroit Bar Association completed its ratings of participating judicial candidates officially running for open seats in the courts of Wayne County for the 2026 election cycle. 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 are given after review of the candidate's completed questionnaire and/or an in-person interview conducted with an Interview Panel of the Committee. 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.** Ratings below were provided to those who actively participated. 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	
Christopher M. Murray (I)	Outstanding
1ST DISTRICT JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS – INCUMBENT- PARTIAL TERM ENDING 01/01/2031 (1) POSITION	
Andrew J. Lievense (I)	Well Qualified
3RD CIRCUIT JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (16) POSITIONS	
David J. Allen (I)	Outstanding
Nicole L. Castka (I)	Outstanding
Don Knapp (I)	Outstanding
36TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT NON-INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (3) POSITIONS	
Delphia J. Burton	Well Qualified
Jo A. Irby	Well Qualified
36TH DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT – PARTIAL TERM ENDING 01/01/2031 (3) POSITIONS	
Ponce Clay (I)	Outstanding

31ST DISTRICT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT -INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (1) POSITION	
Alexis Grace Krot (I)	Qualified
WAYNE JUDGE OF PROBATE COURT NON-INCUMBENT - 6 YEAR TERM (3) POSITIONS	
Sarah Colegrove	Not Qualified
Suzanne Fanning	Well Qualified
Vanessa Moss	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.

###