



Announcing our Ratings for the 2025 General Election

October 24, 2025 – In advance of the November 4, 2024 General Election, the Judiciary Committee of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York is pleased to announce its ratings of all candidates: (i) for New York State Supreme Court in 1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th, 11th and 13th Judicial Districts (comprising New York, Kings, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Richmond Counties); and (ii) for New York City Civil Court in Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond Counties). 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 their 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 history of commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

JUSTICES OF THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court — First Judicial District (New York County)

Suzanne Adams—Highly Approved
James G. Clynes—Highly Approved
Deborah A. Kaplan—Highly Approved
Judy Kim—Approved
Gowri Krishna—Failed to Appear
Jared Trujillo—Failed to Appear

Supreme Court — Second Judicial District (Kings County)

Maria Aragona—Failed to Appear
Betsy Barros—Failed to Appear
Claudia Daniels-DePeyster—Approved
Jill R. Epstein—Highly Approved
Brian L. Gotlieb—Failed to Appear

Norma Jennings—Highly Approved
Carl J. Landicino—Failed to Appear
Derefim Neckles—Failed to Appear
Jacqueline Williams—Failed to Appear

Supreme Court — Ninth Judicial District (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties)

Diane M. Clerkin—Approved
John P. Collins, Jr.—Highly Approved
Thomas Humbach—Failed to Appear (carried over from 2024)
Desmond C. Lyons—Approved
Raymond P. Raiche—Failed to Appear
Verris B. Shako—Highly Approved
George A. Smith—Failed to Appear
Kiel E. Van Horn—Failed to Appear

Supreme Court — Tenth Judicial District (Nassau and Suffolk Counties)

Bronwyn M. Black-Kelly—Failed to Appear
Carl J. Copertino—Failed to Appear
Mark A. Cuthbertson—Failed to Appear
Paul Kenn —Failed to Appear
James W. Malon—Failed to Appear
Matthew T. McDonough—Failed to Appear
Joseph C. Pastoressa—Failed to Appear
Steven A. Pilewski—Failed to Appear
Margaret C. Reilly—Failed to Appear

Supreme Court — Eleventh Judicial District (Queens County)

Richard Felix —Failed to Appear
Ira R. Greenberg—Approved
Gary F. Miret—Approved
Gary Muraca—Failed to Appear (carried over from 2024)
Sandra Perez—Approved
Soma S. Syed—Failed to Appear
Frances Y. Wang—Highly Approved

Supreme Court — Thirteenth Judicial District (Richmond County)

Matthew P. Blum—Approved
Raymond L. Rodriguez—Approved

JUDGES OF THE NEW YORK CITY CIVIL COURT

Civil Court — Bronx County (Countywide)

Shekera Anessa Algarin—Failed to Appear

Civil Court — First Municipal Court District of Bronx County

Katherine A. O'Brien—Failed to Appear

Civil Court — Second Municipal Court District of Bronx County

Lauvienska E. Polanco—Failed to Appear

Civil Court — Kings County (Countywide)

Marisa Arrabito—Approved

Janice Chen—Approved

Civil Court — Second Municipal Court District of Kings County

Sheridan Jack-Browne—Failed to Appear

Civil Court — Fourth Municipal Court District of Kings County

Chidi A. Eze—Failed to Appear

Civil Court — Sixth Municipal Court District of Kings County

Juliet P. Howard—Highly Approved

Civil Court — Seventh Municipal Court District of Kings County

Duane Frankson—Failed to Appear

Dagmar Plaza-Gonzalez—Failed to Appear

Civil Court — Third Municipal Court District of New York County

Eric J. Wursthorn—Highly Approved¹

Civil Court — Seventh Municipal Court District of New York County

Onya Brinson—Highly Approved

¹ In the interest of transparency, while Eric J. Wursthorn is a member of the Board of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (the "Board"), the Judiciary Committee's interviews and deliberations are entirely independent of the Board and, as such, the Judiciary Committee was confident that it could, and did, review his candidacy fairly and impartially.

Civil Court — Eighth Municipal Court District of New York County

Lisa S. Headley—Failed to Appear

Civil Court — Ninth Municipal Court District of New York County

Terence W. McCormick—Approved

Civil Court — Queens County (Countywide)

Thomas D. Barra—Failed to Appear

Sheridan C. Chu—Failed to Appear

Indira D. Khan—Failed to Appear

Oma D. Phillips—Approved

William David Shanahan—Failed to Appear

Susan M. Silverman —Failed to Appear

Civil Court — First Municipal Court District of Queens County

Juliette-Noor Haji—Highly Approved

Civil Court — Second Municipal Court District of Queens County

Stephen C. Dachtera—Failed to Appear

Eve Cho Guillergan—Approved

Thomas G. Wright-Fernandez—Failed to Appear

Civil Court — Fourth Municipal Court District of Queens County

Gail A. Adams—Failed to Appear

Fania Jean—Failed to Appear

Mary-Ann E. Maloney—Failed to Appear

Civil Court — Fifth Municipal Court District of Queens County

Jennifer A. Tubridy—Approved

Civil Court — First Municipal Court District of Richmond County

Matthew J. Santamauro—Failed to Appear

Remy Smith—Approved

The Judiciary Committee

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