

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, July 14, 2017

**SPOKANE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
JULY 2017 JUDICIAL REVIEW PANEL RATINGS AND
BAR POLL RESULTS
CONCERNING PARTICIPATING JUDICIAL CANDIDATES IN
SPOKANE COUNTY PRIMARY ELECTIONS:
SPOKANE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, DEPARTMENT 6 AND
SPOKANE MUNICIPAL COURT, POSITION 1**

JUDICIAL EVALUATION PANEL:

Pursuant to its Judicial Evaluation Resolution (Resolution), Spokane County Bar Association (SCBA) President Marla Hoskins nominated an eleven-person Judicial Evaluation Panel (Panel) to conduct interviews of two participating judicial candidates vying for the Department 6 Spokane County Superior Court seat, and of the participating candidate vying for the Spokane Municipal Judicial Position 1 seat. The SCBA Board of Trustees unanimously approved President Hoskins' nominations of nine local attorneys and two retired judges. Confidential interviews of all participating candidates were conducted by the full Panel on July 13, 2017.

The SCBA's July 2017 Panel was composed of attorneys representing criminal prosecution and defense, a Gonzaga Law School associate dean, civil plaintiff and defense, business and family law, and two retired judges. In addition to an intensive interview by this eleven-member Panel, the Panel considered the candidates' responses to the Governor's Uniform Judicial Questionnaire; writing samples; candidate statements; SCBA membership poll results; resumes; and supplemental written materials, if any.

During the confidential interviews and deliberations, the Panel considered criteria recommended by the American Bar Association and recognized commentators. Among the criteria are critical judicial qualities such as: impartiality, judicial temperament; diligent work ethic; ability to communicate; and knowledge of the law. The Panel ultimately rated each electoral candidate according to rating categories previously set forth in the SCBA's Judicial Evaluation Resolution¹, the candidates' interviews (if any) and the evaluation process, as follows:

¹ **Refused** to participate. ("Self-explanatory.")

Not qualified. (Candidate fails to meet minimum qualifications for holding judicial office.)

Qualified. ("Candidate meets minimum qualifications for holding judicial office.")

Well qualified. ("Candidate meets minimum qualifications for holding judicial office in several areas.")

Exceptionally qualified. ("Candidate sets a standard for excellence in all areas.")

Department 6, Spokane County Superior Court:

Jocelyn E. Cook: Refused to participate. (“Self-explanatory.”)

Anthony D. Hazel: Exceptionally qualified. (“Candidate sets a standard for excellence in all areas.”)

J. Scott Miller: Qualified. (“Candidate meets minimum qualifications for holding judicial office.”)

Position 1, Spokane Municipal Court:

Adam W. Papini: Refused to participate. (“Self-explanatory.”)

Tracy A. Staab: Exceptionally qualified. (“Candidate sets a standard for excellence in all areas.”)

Participation in the SCBA’s evaluation process is voluntary. President Hoskins states:

“Our evaluation provides a comprehensive evaluation of each participating candidate. The SCBA has combined the results of our SCBA membership poll with the legal experience of Panel members, including two retired judges. The SCBA considers this evaluation to be the best process by which our members can make known our views as to those best qualified to serve as judges. Accordingly, the SCBA requests serious consideration be given to the Panel’s ratings.”

The SCBA Judicial Evaluation Panel and membership poll results are published on the SCBA website: www.spokanebar.org. Participating candidate statements, completed Uniform Judicial Questionnaires and confirmation that no participating candidate possesses any adverse WSBA Lawyer Disciplinary History are also posted on the website.

Questions may be directed to SCBA President Marla Hanson at 509.838.4261.