



## **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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Approved<sup>1</sup>

### **Civil Court — Seventh Municipal Court District of New York County**

Onya Brinson—Highly Approved

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<sup>1</sup> 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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