

WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bar Association Judicial Poll Results Announced

As a service to the voting public, the Washington County Bar Association Court Relations Committee has polled Bar Association members about the five candidates for the vacancy on the Washington County Court of Common Pleas. As an entity, the Washington County Bar Association does not recommend, support or oppose any individual candidate, and the results are not to be construed as an endorsement of or as opposition to any individual candidate.

Bar Association members were asked to evaluate each judicial candidate regarding trial experience, education and training, and professional knowledge and skills. In addition, personal qualities combining good character and integrity with patience, and zeal with common sense, as well as a reputation with one's peers for diligence and timeliness.

Ballots were mailed to 312 eligible voting members, with 165 ballots returned for 53% response rate. In the ballot instructions, members were informed that the failure by a member to vote would not be considered as a vote for or against the evaluation of the candidates; therefore, blank ballots and partially blank ballots are reported as "no response." The votes for each of the candidates for judge in the 2017 primary election are as follows:

Candidates (alpha order)	Highly Recommended	Recommended	Not Recommended	No Response
Kristin A. Clingerman	49	63	41	12
Joyce A. Hatfield-Wise	10	40	97	18
Charles E. Kurowski	8	24	126	7
Phillippe A. Melograne	50	56	48	11
Brandon P. Neuman	20	37	98	10

"The Bar Association takes seriously its responsibility to play an active part in securing competent and desirable candidates to fill judicial positions," said attorney Frank Arcuri, chair of the Bar Association's Court Relations Committee. Other attorneys on the committee Mary Bates, Blane Black, Mary Drewitz, Jana Grimm, Joe Fox, MariAnn Hathaway, Josephine Johnson, Cary Jones, Mary Korsmeyer, Laura Phillips, Bryan Pizzi, Jessica Roberts and Harry Stiffler. As part of the committee's process, the candidates participated in a public Judicial Forum co-hosted with the League of Women Voters on April 12, 2017 prior to the referendum; a recording of that event is available on YouTube. Candidates were also asked to complete a questionnaire developed by the Bar Association's Court Relations Committee; answers to that questionnaire are posted on the Bar Association's website at www.washcobar.org/public-education.

For more information, please contact

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