



akron bar
association®

September 17, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

The Akron Bar Association Commission on Judicial Candidates has been established by the Akron Bar Association to evaluate persons, who are candidates for local judgeships. The Commission can rate the candidates “Highly Recommended”, “Recommended”, “Acceptable”, or “Not Recommended”. Ratings are based on seven non-political criteria: integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence, personal responsibility and public and community service.

A rating of “Acceptable” requires a vote of a majority of the Commission members present. If a candidate is rated “Acceptable”, a second ballot is taken to determine if the rating “Recommended” will be awarded, also requiring a vote of the majority of the Commission members present. If a candidate is rated “Recommended”, a third ballot is taken to determine if the rating “Highly Recommended” will be awarded. The “Highly Recommended” rating requires the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the Commission members present.

The Commission is comprised of 28 experienced members of the Akron Bar Association selected by its Municipal Courts Committee, Common Pleas & Appellate Courts Committee, Family Law Section, Probate Law Section, the Chair of the Commission and the Bar President. No more than 50% of the Commission may be from any one political party. All candidates complete a questionnaire containing extensive biographical data and submit relevant materials, including writing samples. References for the candidates are interviewed and intensive interviews of the candidates are conducted.

The ratings are not intended to be a comparison or endorsement of candidates, but represent the Commission’s evaluation of each individual candidate’s qualifications for the specific office sought.

This year the Commission, chaired by William D. Dowling, evaluated the judicial candidates running in the Election scheduled for November 2, 2010.

The ratings are as follows:

9TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
TERM COMM 02/09/11

Carla D. Moore Highly Recommended
William D. Wellemeyer Acceptable

9TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
TERM COMM 02/10/11

Robert J. Brown Recommended
Donna J. Carr Highly Recommended

9TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
TERM COMM 02/11/11

Rita M. Rochford Recommended
Beth Whitmore Highly Recommended

COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGE
TERM COMM 01/05/11

Scot A. Stevenson The Commission was unable to
evaluate the candidate because he
declined to participate in the evaluation process.

Elinore Marsh Stormer Highly Recommended

DOMESTIC RELATIONS JUDGE
TERM COMM 01/06/11

John A. Casalnuovo Acceptable
Carol J. Dezso Highly Recommended