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Montgomery Bar Association

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, December 8, 2010

MONTGOMERY BAR ASSOCIATION JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2011 ELECTION

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Daniel J. Clifford

Robert J. Edelmayer

Richard P. Haaz

Henry J. Schireson

RECOMMENDED

John C. Armstrong

Cheryl Lynn Austin

Maureen Claire Coggins

Michael P. Gottlieb

Adam D. Zucker

The Judiciary Committee of the Montgomery Bar Association is charged with interviewing and rating candidates for the position of Judge on the Court of Common Pleas. The Judiciary Committee is composed of thirty-four lawyers of diverse background, ages, practices and geographic areas of Montgomery County, elected by the members of the Bar Association which numbers more than 2,100 county lawyers. The collective legal experience of the Committee members is nearly 1,000 years.

Each candidate is evaluated individually and not as compared to other candidates. The purpose of the ratings is to educate the public as to how the candidates' peers view them as potential judges, and to assist voters in their evaluation of judicial candidates on election day.

The Committee is charged with the duty to rate a candidate *Recommended, Highly Recommended* or *Not Recommended*.

The recommendation awarded the candidate is not intended to rate a candidate's ability as a practicing attorney at law.

The criteria considered by the Committee to rate the candidates are:

- A. Integrity.
- B. Good moral character.
- C. Industry.
- D. Good health.
- E. Legal ability.
- F. Bench trial, jury trial, or evidentiary hearing experience.
- G. Judicial temperament including patience, courtesy, compassion, impartiality, humility, even temper, and sense of fairness.

Each candidate submits to the Committee a biographical summary of their legal experience, background, and community service. These submissions are carefully reviewed and considered, and the personal references provided by the candidates on their qualifications are checked. The full Committee then interviews each candidate in person, after which the Committee discusses and votes on the rating. The Bar Association considers this procedure to be an important public service.

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About the Montgomery Bar Association

Established in 1885 to professionalize the county's practice of law, the Montgomery Bar Association (MBA) is one of our nation's oldest and most respected bar associations, representing over 2,100 legal professionals in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Now, as then, the MBA exists to uphold legal and ethical standards in our legal community. As the third largest Bar in Pennsylvania, the MBA has a longstanding tradition of service to its membership and the community. For members, the MBA offers an important arena for networking, professional development and education. For the community, the MBA serves as a trusted legal resource, offering education, legal assistance and funds and resources for individuals and agencies in need. The Association is actively engaged in public service through community outreach, free educational events offered throughout the year, programs like the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project, the Mock Trial Competitions for high-school students, and more. For more information on the Montgomery Bar Association, visit www.montgomerybar.org.