



### **Press Release**

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES RATED  
By: Bar Association of Lehigh County  
Judicial Evaluation Committee

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## **The Bar Association Of Lehigh County Judicial Evaluation Committee Releases 2025 Ratings for Potential Candidates to Fill a Seat on the Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas**

ALLENTOWN (August 22, 2025) — The Bar Association of Lehigh County Judicial Evaluation Commission (BALC JEC) today released its ratings of potential judicial candidates seeking to fill one (1) open seat on the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. In the 2025 General Election, voters will choose one (1) person out of a field of two (2) candidates who are currently running for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Pursuant to Article X, Section 4 of the By-Laws of The Bar Association of Lehigh County, each candidate requesting an evaluation by the BALC JEC is eligible to receive a rating of “Highly Recommended,” “Recommended” or “Not Recommended.” These ratings are consistent with the Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Commission, who rates candidates for the Pennsylvania Appellate Courts.

The Committee is comprised of members who are experienced practitioners with an understanding of the workings of the Court and includes members with experience in each of the areas of practice before the Court including criminal law, family law, civil law and

orphan's court experience. Each Committee Member is non-partisan and commits that they will not, during their term in office, endorse or contribute to the campaign of any judicial candidate which the Committee will evaluate. Mark Crossley served as the Judicial Evaluation Committee Chair, together with Sarah Hart Charette, President of the Bar Association of Lehigh County, Kristin Noonan Hutchins, Vice President and Charles Smith, Jr., Treasurer of the BALC plus BALC Board Member Susan Maurer, and BALC Members, Candy Barr Heimbach and Gwin Krouse.

Judges make important decisions every day that affect people's lives. Therefore, the Committee's goal is to provide information to assist voters in choosing candidates best suited to serve as fair, impartial and knowledgeable judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County. It is the purpose of the committee to recommend candidates it finds to have the legal ability, experience, integrity and temperament needed to provide satisfactory or outstanding levels of performance in the court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County.

The BALC JEC based its ratings for each candidate on an evaluation process that included review of the Judicial Candidate Questionnaire and any writing samples submitted by the judicial candidate as well as personal interviews with the candidates. Following the interview of each candidate and review of the individual candidate's written submissions, the Committee discussed each candidate's qualifications and voted on each candidate's rating. Under the Article X, Section 4 of the By-Laws, a rating of "Recommended" or "Not Recommended" required a vote of a majority of the Committee. A rating of "Highly Recommended" required a two-thirds vote of the committee. In rating the candidates, the Judicial Evaluation Committee used as a guide the Pennsylvania Bar Association's ratings of candidates as follows:

**Highly Recommended:** The candidate possesses the highest combination of legal ability, experience, integrity and temperament and would be capable of outstanding performance as a judge of the court for which he/she is a candidate.

**Recommended:** Based on legal ability, experience, integrity and temperament, the candidate would be able to perform satisfactorily as a judge of the court for which he/she is a candidate.

Not Recommended: Based on legal ability, experience, integrity or temperament, or any combination thereof, at the present time, the candidate is inadequate to perform satisfactorily as a judge of the court for which he/she is a candidate.

These are the BALC JEC's ratings for the potential candidates. Pursuant to the Pursuant to Article X, Section 4 of the By-Laws of The Bar Association of Lehigh County, the Committee is reporting its ratings of and narratives of the candidates in **alphabetical order**.

### **PATRICIA MULQUEEN**

#### **Rating: Highly Recommended**

During her interview, Ms. Mulqueen showed excellent demeanor, poise, humbleness, and ability that would make for an extremely effective, fair and highly respected jurist. Having served in the public defender's office in Arizona and then the district attorney's office of Lehigh and Northampton Counties for over 25 years, Ms. Mulqueen has the courtroom experience and extensive knowledge of courtroom procedure, the rules of evidence and examination of witnesses which will easily transition to the bench and all areas of the law that may come before her as a judge. As an assistant district attorney, Ms. Mulqueen has been threatened, yet she understands the importance of staying calm and cool in the face of adversity to try to defuse the situation with difficult people rather than escalate the problem. While Ms. Mulqueen handled criminal cases for the majority of her career, there was also a civil component incorporated in several of those cases that gave Ms. Mulqueen an understanding about the civil and domestic relations areas of the law. She understands that people's lives are often affected by civil actions and family law issues and often observes legal arguments before the civil bench. She plans to be impartial, fair and respect all parties. As a Prosecutor, Ms. Mulqueen has had the opportunity to assess credibility of police officers, victims and litigants, and will be able to transfer this skill into a Judge. Ms. Mulqueen is a proponent of Courtroom Decorum and will demand respect and seriousness attendant to all Court proceedings. She understands the difficulty in dealing with Pro Se litigants (people who represent themselves) and plans to be evenhanded to all persons who come before her, whether they are represented by Counsel or not. Ms. Mulqueen is big on Community service, has been in this Community since 2004 and wants to play an integral part of the Court system as she gives back to her community. She has a calm demeanor, is compassionate, follows the rules and will treat all litigants with dignity and respect; and abides by the highest ethical standards. The Committee notes that Ms. Mulqueen has an impressive resume, is bright and committed to the law and will be a quick study for those areas of the law with which she is not readily familiar. The Committee was impressed with all aspects of Ms. Mulqueen's interview and believes she will bring a unique and valuable perspective to her work as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County. Accordingly, the Committee highly recommends her candidacy.

## **MARK STANZIOLA**

### **Rating: Highly Recommended**

Mark Stanziola brings a breadth of civil practice experience to his role as judicial candidate and has served in a Quasi-Judicial role as a Custody Hearing Officer. In that role Mr. Stanziola has tried to work out situations that have come before him, rather than jump immediately into testimony or a hearing. This will bode well for Mr. Stanziola as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County, where the parties often need that independent third party, such as a Judge, to resolve issues. He plans to model Judges who are even keeled and reason with the parties who come before him, a good temperament for anyone who seeks to hold the position as Judge. During the interview process, the Committee found Mr. Stanziola to be poised, even tempered, well-spoken and intelligent. He comes with a family law background, having practiced family law for 38 years. He also has a background in criminal law. Mr. Stanziola told the committee that he recognizes that law and justice are two different things, and plans to make both a priority in his Courtroom. Having taught a course on Civility, he understands the role that litigants play in the Court system and will push for Civility in his Courtroom. Mr. Stanziola does not micromanage litigants and plans to talk about why the litigants are before him. He plans to try and dissuade people from taking an unrealistic position and plans to keep the decorum of the Courtroom with a certain expectation of dress and demeanor of all litigants in his Courtroom. Mr. Stanziola also plans to keep Pro Se Litigants (people who represent themselves) focused and not go on endlessly, another good trait as a judge. Mr. Stanziola is very well organized and plans to run his Courtroom in the same manner. He is seasoned and patient, even keeled and pragmatic. He takes pride in his public service, serving on his Church board, the Board of Governors for the Northampton County Bar Association, and board positions of many other community organizations. He has been a member of the Lehigh Valley Community for 38 years and started a legal clinic to give voice to the people without a voice and resources for them to turn to. He is passionate about the Community and wants to give back. He recognizes that rules and deadlines are there for a reason and plans to enforce the deadlines when necessary to ensure a prompt and efficient conclusion to the cases that come before him. He will listen to everyone and advocate for common sense. He also has demonstrated commitment to the citizens of Lehigh County, combined with a high degree of respect and trust of his colleagues. During his interview, Mr. Stanziola demonstrated the professionalism, intellect, preparedness, integrity and temperament expected of a Judge. The Committee views Mr. Stanziola's candidacy as a culmination of a long and successful legal career and it is anticipated he would serve the County extremely well as a judge of the Court of the Common Pleas of Lehigh County. Accordingly, the Committee highly recommends his candidacy.

## **About the Bar Association of Lehigh County**

The association was officially chartered in 1905 "to advance the science of jurisprudence and the administration of justice, to encourage a thorough legal education, to uphold the honor and dignity of the bar, to cultivate social and professional association among its members, to assist the courts in the orderly and efficient administration of justice and to perpetuate the history of the profession and the memory of its members within this judicial district."