

September 16, 2011

**PRESS RELEASE - JUDICIAL EVALUATION
FOR SPOKANE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT,
DEPARTMENT 8 APPOINTMENT**

The Spokane County Bar Association (SCBA) is pleased to announce the report of the SCBA Judicial Evaluation Panel for those candidates who have asked to be considered for appointment to the vacated position on the Spokane County District Court. The seat became available with the retirement of Judge Richard B. White. The Judicial Evaluation Panel process was conducted at the request of the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County who will make the appointment. The candidates are:

MICHAEL J. BEYER, RANDY A. BRANDT, CHRISTOPHER A. BUGBEE, C. BRADLEY CHINN, HARVEY A. DUNHAM, DAVID W. HUBERT, DONALD A. KELLMAN, DEBBY J. KURBITZ, MARK A. LAIMINGER, RICHARD M. LELAND, JULIE M. MCKAY, MICHAEL A. NELSON, TIMOTHY O'BRIEN, GLORIA OCHOA, W. MICHAEL REINKEN, ROBERT M. SEINES, LYNDEN P. SMITHSON, AND GREGORY D. WEBER

A Judicial Evaluation Panel, appointed by SCBA President Scott Morris, conducted an in-depth evaluation and interview of each candidate. The panel members were selected from criminal prosecutors and defenders, civil plaintiff and defense lawyers, business lawyers and retired judges. The Judicial Evaluation Panel considered the candidates' responses to a detailed questionnaire, examined writing samples, and conducted in-person interviews of each candidate utilizing criteria recommended by the American Bar Association and recognized commentators. The criteria included the areas of honesty, impartiality, judicial temperament, diligent work

ethic, ability to communicate clearly orally and in writing, knowledge of the law, other areas as appropriately defined by the Judicial Evaluation Panel for the position, type and nature of the matters heard by the Court, ability to manage caseload, and people skills using the following rating categories:

- **Not qualified:** Candidate fails to meet minimum qualifications for holding judicial office.
- **Qualified:** Candidate meets minimum qualifications for holding judicial office.
- **Well qualified:** Candidate exceeds minimum qualifications for holding judicial office in several categories.
- **Exceptionally qualified:** Candidate sets a standard for excellence in all areas.

The Judicial Evaluation Panel report has been sent to the Board of County Commissioners and is now being made available to the public.

This year’s Judicial Evaluation Panel Chair, Scott Morris, states: “The Spokane County Bar Association is pleased to assist the Board of County Commissioners in its selection process for the vacant position on the Spokane County District Court bench. Our bar association has a duty to the public to express our collective view as to the competency of an individual to sit in judgment of our clients. We welcome this opportunity to be an integral part of the Board of County Commissioners’ desire to select from a slate of qualified candidates. We believe our Judicial Evaluation Panel process serves the public, the profession and the Board of County Commissioners well. We thank the Commissioners for seeking the Bar’s evaluation of each candidate and the candidates for their participation in this important review by their peers.”

A copy of each candidate's responses to The Washington State Governor's Office Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire was provided to the SCBA. The completed questionnaires may be viewed on the Spokane County website at www.spokanecounty.org/commissioners/content.aspx?c=2435.

The Board of County Commissioners' office should be consulted with regard to any additional evaluations or interviews related to the candidates.

Questions can be directed to C. Matthew Andersen at 838-6131 or Scott A. Morris at 321-3201. The Judicial Evaluation Panel report is attached.

The 2011 Spokane County District Court, Department 8
SCBA Judicial Evaluation Panel Overall Evaluation

Michael J. Beyer:	Qualified
Randy A. Brandt:	Qualified
Christopher A. Bugbee:	Exceptionally Qualified
C. Bradley Chinn:	Well Qualified
Harvey A. Dunham:	Not Qualified
David W. Hubert:	Qualified
Donald A. Kellman:	Exceptionally Qualified
Debby J. Kurbitz:	Qualified
Mark A. Laiminger:	Well Qualified
Richard M. Leland:	Exceptionally Qualified
Julie M. McKay:	Exceptionally Qualified
Michael A. Nelson:	Well Qualified
Timothy O'Brien:	Qualified
Gloria Ochoa:	Well Qualified
W. Michael Reinken:	Qualified
Robert M. Seines:	Exceptionally Qualified
Lynden P. Smithson:	Qualified
Gregory D. Weber:	Qualified