

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST 22, 2016:**

**SPOKANE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF  
ITS JUDICIAL REVIEW PANEL EVALUATIONS AND  
MEMBERSHIP POLL CONCERNING PARTICIPATING  
JUDICIAL CANDIDATES IN SPOKANE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
CONTESTED ELECTIONS: DEPARTMENTS 10 and 11**

**JUDICIAL EVALUATION PANEL:**

Pursuant to SCBA Judicial Evaluation Resolution, Spokane County Bar Association (SCBA) President Jennifer Hanson nominated an eleven person Judicial Evaluation Panel (Panel) to conduct interviews of participating judicial candidates in Departments 10 and 11 for Spokane County Superior Court elections. The SCBA Board of Trustees unanimously approved Ms. Hanson's nominations of nine local attorneys and two retired judges. Interviews of the participating candidates were conducted by the full Panel on July 21, 2016.

The panel was composed of attorneys representing criminal prosecution and defense, civil plaintiff and defense, a member of the Gonzaga Law School faculty, business, family law, and two retired judges. In addition to the Panel's in-depth interviews, the Panel considered the candidates' responses to the Governor's detailed Uniform Judicial Questionnaire, examination of writing samples and membership poll results. Based upon their interviews and the evaluation process, the Panel determined the following ratings for the participating candidates in the Spokane County Superior Court Departments 10 and 11 judicial races:

**Department 10:**

**LINDA TOMPKINS:** Well qualified ("considered to exceed minimum qualifications for holding judicial office in several areas.")

**Department 11:**

**GREGORY SYPOLT:** Well qualified ("considered to exceed minimum qualifications for holding judicial office in several areas.")

**TIMOTHY FENNESSY:** Well qualified ("considered to exceed minimum qualifications for holding judicial office in several areas.")

Though participation in the SCBA's evaluation process is voluntary, President Hanson states: "Our evaluation process is a comprehensive evaluation of each participating candidate. The SCBA has combined the results of our membership poll with the legal and judicial experience of our Panelists. The SCBA considers this evaluation to be the best process by which our members can make known our views as to those candidates best qualified to serve a judges; accordingly, the SCBA requests serious consideration be given to the Panel's evaluations."

**SCBA MEMBERSHIP POLL:**

Also pursuant to the Judicial Evaluation Resolution, the SCBA conducted a poll of its membership concerning participating judicial candidates in the Departments 10 and 11 Spokane County Superior Court races.

The SCBA Membership Poll (Poll) was conducted by and prepared under the direction of David Brody, J.D., Ph.D., of Washington State University's Spokane-based criminal justice program. The Membership Poll reflects the personal views of individual SCBA Members based upon their own first-hand knowledge of the participating candidates. The results do not constitute an endorsement of any participating candidate.

302 of the SCBA's 892 members voted in the Poll. These members were asked to evaluate each participating judicial candidate with respect to five criteria determined significant qualifications for a judge: Legal Ability; Judicial Temperament; Integrity; Relevant Legal Experience; and Suitability. Members were asked to vote on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 = Not Qualified, 2 = Qualified, 3 = Well Qualified; and 4 Exceptionally Well Qualified. A 5<sup>th</sup> voting category – Insufficient Information – was also available. Statistically speaking, the results and demographics are significant and validate the results.

The SCBA Judicial Evaluation Panel and membership poll results are published on the SCBA website: [www.spokanebar.org](http://www.spokanebar.org). Participating candidate statements, completed questionnaires and WSBA Lawyer Grievance/Disciplinary Certifications are also posted on the SCBA website.

Questions can be directed to Jennifer Hanson at 509-321-5930 or to James McPhee at 509-455-9077. Results of the SCBA Judicial Evaluation Panel are as identified herein, and Membership Poll results are attached.

The July 2016 SCBA Spokane County Superior Court Departments 10 and 11  
Judicial Evaluation Panel Overall Evaluation of Participating Candidates.

**Timothy Fennessy:                      Well Qualified**

**Gregory Sypolt:                        Well Qualified**

**Linda Tompkins:                       Well Qualified**