

State of New York
Third Department
Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions
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Pursuant to Part 150 of the Rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts, Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions ("IJEQCs") have been established in each of the judicial districts of New York State. The IJEQCs are a statewide network of independent screening panels for judicial candidates. Each IJEQC is charged with the responsibility of evaluating the qualifications of candidates, within its respective judicial district, who voluntarily submit a questionnaire and are seeking election to the following New York State Courts: Supreme, County, Surrogate's, Family, New York City Civil, District and City. The commissions' role is to determine whether candidates are qualified for the judicial office to which they seek election. Each commission has 15 members appointed by the Chief Judge, the Presiding Justices of the Appellate Divisions, the New York State Bar Association, and local bar associations. The commissions are comprised of both lawyers and non-lawyers and represent a wide cross-section of the communities that they serve.

In the Sixth Judicial District, which encompasses the counties of Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schulyer, Tioga and Tompkins, the evaluation process included an investigation of each candidate's background and qualifications and each candidate participated in a personal interview with the commission. The Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission for the Sixth Judicial District recently announced the following rating for candidates for judicial offices within the Sixth Judicial District:

New York State Supreme Court Justice for the Sixth Judicial District

Michael V. Coccoma - Qualified
Joseph G. Fazzary - Qualified
Molly R. Fitzgerald - Qualified
Richard W. Rich, Jr. - Qualified
Phillip R. Rumsey - Qualified

Broome County Court Judge

Joseph F. Cawley, Jr. - Qualified

For further information regarding the evaluation process, please visit the IJEQC web page at <http://nycourts.gov/ad3> and follow the links to the Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission or contact Timothy P. O'Keefe, Director, at the address above, by telephone at (518) 285-8571, or by email at tokeefe@courts.state.ny.us.