PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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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. 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 courts in New York: Supreme, County, Surrogate's, Family and City. Each IJEQC 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 IJEQCs are comprised of both lawyers and non-lawyers and represent a wide cross-section of the communities that they serve.

The IJEQCs' role is to determine whether candidates are "Highly Qualified," "Qualified" or "Not Qualified" for the judicial office to which they seek election. The criteria for evaluation include: professional ability; character, independence and integrity; reputation for fairness and lack of bias; and temperament, including courtesy and patience. Candidates found Highly Qualified must be preeminent members of the legal profession in their community; have outstanding professional ability, work ethic, intellect, judgment and breadth of experience relevant to the office being sought; possess the highest reputation for honesty, integrity and good character, including the absence of any significant professional disciplinary record; and either demonstrate or exhibit the highest capacity for distinguished judicial temperament, including courtesy, patience, independence, impartiality and respect for all participants in the legal process.

In the Third Judicial District, which encompasses the Counties of Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Sullivan and Ulster, the evaluation process included an investigation of each candidate's background and qualifications, and each candidate participated in a personal interview with the IJEQC. The IJEQC for the Third Judicial District today announced the following ratings for candidates for judicial offices within the Third Judicial District:

Judge of the County Court of Rensselaer County
Jennifer G. Sober - Qualified

Judge of the Albany City Court
John J. Reilly - Qualified
Holly A. Trexler - 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 Commissions or contact Timothy P. O'Keefe, Director, at the address above, by telephone at (518) 285-8571, or by email at tokeefe@nycourts.gov.