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THE ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION POLL RATES CANDIDATES FOR JUDICIAL POSITIONS

ATLANTA (September 29, 2010) – The Atlanta Bar Association today announces the completion of a poll rating all candidates in the contested judicial elections for Superior and State Courts for the counties of Cherokee, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas and Fulton.

The poll asked all active and life members of the Atlanta Bar – a total of 5,474 members – to rate the 21 candidates in the upcoming November 2 elections, four of whom are incumbents. The poll provided four rating categories relating to the candidates’ credentials to hold the positions they seek: “Best Qualified for the Position,” “Well Qualified,” “Qualified,” and “Not Qualified.” To rate a candidate in any of these categories, lawyers completing the poll were asked to only vote if they had sufficient personal knowledge or other reliable information to provide an informed and thoughtful response about the candidate’s qualifications.

The Atlanta Bar Association poll also provided an option for members to respond that they have insufficient personal knowledge or other reliable information about the candidate to make a rating.

Four hundred and thirty (430) Atlanta Bar Association members responded to the poll, which was distributed by e-mail on September 8, 2010 and closed on September 22, 2010.

“We believe this judicial candidate’s poll serves as a valuable public service for the voting community,” said Michael B. Terry, president of the Atlanta Bar Association. “The aim is to provide the public with the views of lawyers responding to the poll who have sufficient knowledge of the candidates to form an opinion regarding their qualifications. The Atlanta Bar Association does not endorse candidates for judicial office and conducts these polls on an impartial basis as a public service for Metropolitan Atlanta voters.”

In order to avoid any potential misinterpretation of the poll results, publication of the poll results must be substantially the same as it appears here.

Judge, Cherokee State Court

	Well Qualified	Qualified	Not Qualified	Lacks Sufficient Knowledge to Express Opinion	Best Qualified For Position
Judge William Alan Jordan	25	26	1	332	62
Joseph H. “O” Oczkowski	2	10	14	355	5

Judge, Cobb State Court (To succeed Judge Campbell)

	Well Qualified	Qualified	Not Qualified	Lacks Sufficient Knowledge to Express Opinion	Best Qualified For Position
Angela Brown	5	17	5	342	17
Jason B. Fincher	5	24	2	338	24
Marsha S. Lake	4	14	9	342	10

Judge, Cobb Superior Court

	Well Qualified	Qualified	Not Qualified	Lacks Sufficient Knowledge to Express Opinion	Best Qualified For Position
Judge James G. Bodiford	177	100	7	104	258
Normarene Culver Merritt	0	11	29	316	8

Judge, Cobb Superior Court

	Well Qualified	Qualified	Not Qualified	Lacks Sufficient Knowledge to Express Opinion	Best Qualified For Position
Joan P. Davis	4	18	25	308	12
Judge George H. Kreeger	124	80	3	169	179

Judge, Stone Mountain/DeKalb Superior Court *(To succeed Judge Castellani)*

	Well Qualified	Qualified	Not Qualified	Lacks Sufficient Knowledge to Express Opinion	Best Qualified For Position
Yvonne Hawks	4	10	12	325	9
Courtney L. Johnson	7	26	6	311	16
Michael L. Rothenberg	18	39	18	279	46
Denise M. Warner	25	29	7	289	33

Judge, Douglas County Superior Court

	Well Qualified	Qualified	Not Qualified	Lacks Sufficient Knowledge to Express Opinion	Best Qualified For Position
Sonya R. Chachere-Compton	5	4	11	316	12
Judge David T. Emerson	42	64	11	231	99
Jennifer L. Knight	3	9	11	305	5

Judge, Atlanta Circuit/Fulton County Superior Court *(To succeed Judge Westmoreland)*

	Well Qualified	Qualified	Not Qualified	Lacks Sufficient Knowledge to Express Opinion	Best Qualified For Position
Chloe E. Dallaire	138	88	18	133	142
Karlise Y. Grier	29	59	41	229	30
Clarence R. Johnson Jr.	18	46	36	252	18
Kelly Amanda Lee	99	95	21	148	102
Shelitha R. Robertson	3	22	47	270	2

The Atlanta Bar Association's Web site (www.atlantabar.org) home page features links to the websites of the candidates.

ABOUT THE ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION

The Atlanta Bar Association is the largest voluntary bar association in the southeast with membership at about 6,300 from the 12 counties of metro Atlanta: (Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale). The mission of the Atlanta Bar Association is to promote professionalism and the fair administration of justice in our community and to provide programs and benefits which serve our diverse membership. Contact Diane O'Steen, Executive Director, at (404) 832-6206 or dosteen@atlantabar.org for additional information.

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