

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR  
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## **Guidelines Used by the Committee on the Judiciary for Evaluating Candidates for Judicial Office**

In evaluating candidates for judicial office, the Committee on the Judiciary should determine whether the candidate has the following qualifications: integrity, impartiality, intellectual ability, knowledge of the law, industriousness, and judicial demeanor and temperament.

In examining integrity and impartiality, the Committee should consider the candor and accuracy of the candidate's responses, and should determine whether the candidate is free of any bias or outside influence which would interfere with the candidate's ability to render justice impartially. The Committee should consider whether the candidate is able to weigh conflicting evidence and conflicting arguments fairly. The Committee should verify that the candidate possesses all the legal qualifications for office, and that the candidate has complied with the registration requirements that govern attorneys in the state of New York. The Committee should determine whether the candidate's campaign materials comply with the relevant ethical standards. The Committee should determine whether any court or disciplinary authority or other agency has found that the candidate has violated any law or ethical rule.

In examining intellectual ability and knowledge of the law, the Committee should evaluate the written opinions and other written work of the candidate for reasonableness, scholarship, and quality of writing, and in the case of a sitting judge the Committee should review the candidate's appellate record. In assessing the candidate's knowledge of the law, the Committee should consider both the law relevant to the court for which the candidate seeks appointment or election, and the law relevant to other courts to which a judge might reasonably be expected to be reassigned.

In examining industriousness, the Committee should consider whether the candidate is able and willing to spend the time necessary to accomplish the task required. The Committee should also consider whether the candidate is able and willing to begin proceedings punctually, and to make decisions in a timely manner.

In examining judicial demeanor and temperament, the Committee should consider whether the candidate has the ability and willingness to deal patiently, considerately, and respectfully with all the attorneys, litigants, and witnesses who come before the court, including those litigants who appear pro se, as well as court personnel.

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