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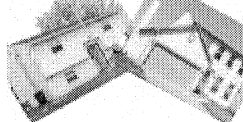
NEWS SEARCH

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Court Listings & Public Notices Update
2675 new records were added to our database at 2:56 PM, on April 9. The system now contains **1900115** records.

COURT FILING

- Bankruptcy
- Building Permit
- Common Pleas
- Corporations
- Court of Appeals
- Criminal
- Domestic
- Marriage License
- Misc Lien
- Mtg of Creditor
- Municipal Court
- Probate Court
- Real Estate
- Sheriff's Auction
- U.S. Dist Court
- Vendor License
- Sheriff's Auction



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PUBLIC NOTICE

2008-4-9 3:21 PM

	+	=
Annexation	0	102
Bid Notice	2	956
Divorce	0	1541
Foreclosure	5	6004
Juvenile	17	26801
Misc. Notice	2	5094
Probate	6	5417
Total		45915

HEARINGS

- Common Pleas
- Municipal Court

Bar commission ranks justice candidates

KEITH ARNOLD
Daily Reporter Staff Writer
04/10/2008

No matter who it is Ohio voters select to fill Supreme Court vacancies this fall, any of the four candidates seeking office come highly regarded by their peers.

The Ohio State Bar Association's 25-member Commission on Judicial Candidates panel has evaluated each of the candidates for Supreme Court justice - incumbent justices Maureen O'Connor and Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Joseph Russo and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Judge Peter Sikora - based upon eight non-political criteria.

The criteria comprise legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial competence, integrity, diligence, health, personal responsibility, and public/community service.

Stratton garnered the most favorable endorsement of highly recommended, while each of the other candidates earned recommended status, according to a statement issued by the bar association this week.

A commission member vote of at least 65 percent is required for a candidate to receive the OSBA's recommended rating, while the superior rating of highly recommended is awarded to any candidate receiving favorable votes from at least 75 percent of the Commission members, the press release continued. Other rankings are adequate and not recommended.

Two-time commission member Stephen Chappellear, managing partner of the Columbus firm of Hahn Loeser + Parks LLP, said it's not uncommon to have multiple, highly regarded candidates because of each of the candidates receiving individual consideration.

The commission looks at each of these candidates and their qualifications very studiously, he said.

As for the distinction between a recommended candidate and a highly recommended one, Chappellear said commission members discussed the matter at great length.

"There's nothing in the bylaws (governing members drawing the distinction)," he said. "It was more (a matter of) you just know based upon what you have gleaned from the candidates qualifications."

The commission considers its evaluation of judicial candidates a significant part of the election process.

"It's a service to help voters with the very important decision of determining who is qualified to sit on the state's highest court," Chappellear said, rather than relying on name recognition, sound bytes or billboards.

OSBA past-president and Columbus attorney Heather Sowald is chairwoman of the commission, which includes a representative from each of the OSBA's 18 geographic districts. Additionally, six at-large members who reflect the diversity of the organization's 25,000 members serve as appointees of the president and board of governors, the press release said.

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