

**TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR  
ASSOCIATION JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS  
COMMITTEE  
RATINGS CRITERIA**

I. Criteria for a QUALIFIED Rating

In order to receive a Qualified Rating, a candidate must possess the following qualities:

- A minimum of 5 years as a member of the Bar;
- Good standing with the Washington State Bar and all other Bar Associations to which the candidate has been admitted;
- A minimum of 5 years as an attorney admitted to practice;
- Maturity, integrity, courtesy, intellectual honesty, fairness, good judgment, curiosity and common sense;
- A demonstrated commitment to equal justice under the law, and fairness and open-mindedness with sensitivity to and respect for all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, religion, political ideology, creed, age, marital status or physical or mental handicap, disability or impairment.
- The courage and ability to make difficult decisions under stress;
- The competence, ability and experience to manage the proceedings over which the judicial position for which the candidate seeks appointment or election.
  
- The ability to address diverse issues, weigh conflicting testimony, apply the law to the facts, understand the dynamics of the trial or conflict resolution process, and command respect from attorneys, litigants, other court participants and the public.
- The ability to work with the variety of subject matter dealt with by the judicial position for which they seek election or appointment;
- The energy and capacity for hard work;
- Excellent legal ability and confidence, and demonstrated excellence in legal work and practice;
- The ability to communicate clearly and effectively, orally and in writing, with attorneys, litigants and court participants.
- The potential for ongoing professional development and demonstrated leadership in the profession.

II. Criteria for receiving the WELL QUALIFIED Rating

The candidate must possess the qualities for a Qualified Rating and in addition must possess the following:

- A demonstrated level of skill, experience, sound judgment and excellence in his or her professional or judicial career, or both, which will sustain or improve the quality of the bench of the judicial position sought.

### III. Criteria for receiving the EXCEPTIONALLY WELL QUALIFIED Rating

The candidate must possess the qualities for a Well Qualified Rating and in addition must possess the following:

- Exceptional legal ability and writing skills, which may be evidenced by excellent legal analysis and ability to deal with legal problems; by proven legal scholarship and writing; or by a reputation for excellence in legal work and practice;
- Demonstrated exceptional litigation, judicial or administrative experience and a reputation for outstanding personal and professional integrity, personal and professional independence; personal courage; and an excellent ability to make difficult decisions in demanding situations;
- Public service;
- Potential for leadership on the bench;
- An interest in and commitment to working with other judges and court administrators to improve the administration of justice;
- An unswerving devotion to equality and to access to justice.

### IV. Criteria for the NOT QUALIFIED Rating

The candidate does not meet the minimum requirements to receive a Qualified Rating.

### V. Criteria for NOT RATED Rating

A candidate will be NOT RATED where:

- There is insufficient information upon which to base an evaluation;
- The candidate declines to participate in the process;
- The candidate has been a member of the Committee within the past year and is, therefore, ineligible to receive a rating.