

# CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



## JUDGES VOTER GUIDE

Dear Fellow Republican:

Every election cycle Republican voters complain about the lack of information regarding judicial candidates appearing on their ballots. Recently, Republican voters were reminded of the power of Judges to make life altering decisions. The ruling of the California Supreme Court in the *Gay Marriage* cases further underscored the need for Republican voters to have information regarding who they are electing to these important and powerful positions. In an attempt to provide Republican voters with the information they need, the California Republican Lawyers Association has prepared a statewide Republican voter guide on Judges.

The preparation of this voter guide was a massive undertaking. Information regarding judicial candidates is difficult to obtain. In order to obtain the necessary information we held candidates' forums, interviewed candidates, interviewed local attorneys and researched who and what organizations endorsed each candidate. I would like to thank all the members of the *CRLA* Judges Committee for all of their hard work. We hope this guide will provide information to the voters so they can make an informed decision about these important elections.

Finally, in some races the California Republican Lawyers Association has issued endorsements or recommendations. These endorsements are based on the information we obtained from the above sources. These endorsements were ratified by our Board of Directors which is entirely comprised of practicing attorneys. Judicial candidates we endorsed evidenced the following criteria: integrity, superior legal reputation and experience. Most importantly, all of the candidates endorsed by the *CRLA* expressed that they understood that the role of a Judge is to apply the law, not create it.

As the only Lawyers organization chartered by the California Republican Party, the *CRLA* is happy to provide this important information to you. If you have any questions please contact us at [info@californiarepublicanlawyers.org](mailto:info@californiarepublicanlawyers.org).

Sincerely

Steve Baric  
President, CRLA  
Secretary, CRP

## **Background Information on Judges**

Salary: \$ 178,789 annually  
Tenure: 6 years  
Term begins: January 2, 2009

### **Methods of Judicial Selection:**

#### **Number of Judgeships Statewide**

Supreme Court: 7  
Court of Appeals: 105  
Superior Court: 1498

#### **Number of Districts/Circuits**

Supreme Court: --  
Court of Appeals: 6  
Superior Court: 58

#### **Geographic Basis for Selection**

Supreme Court: statewide  
Court of Appeals: district  
Superior Court: county

#### **Method of Selection (full term)**

Supreme Court: gubernatorial appointment; confirmation by commission on judicial appointments  
Court of Appeals: gubernatorial appointment; confirmation by commission on judicial appointments  
Superior Court: nonpartisan election

#### **Length of Term**

Supreme Court: 12 yrs

Court of Appeals: 12 yrs

Superior Court: 6 yrs

### **Method of Retention**

Supreme Court: retention election

Court of Appeals: retention election

Superior Court: reelection

### **Length of Subsequent Terms**

Supreme Court: 12 yrs

Court of Appeals: 12yrs

Superior Court: 6 yrs

### **Method of Filling Interim Vacancies**

Supreme Court: gubernatorial appointment; confirmation by commission on judicial appointments

Court of Appeals: gubernatorial appointment; confirmation by commission on judicial appointments

Superior Court: gubernatorial appointment

### **When Interim Judges Stand for Election/Appointment**

Supreme Court: next gubernatorial election

Court of Appeals: next gubernatorial election

Superior Court: next general election

## **Qualifications**

Supreme Court:	10 yrs practice of law in state or service as judge of court of record
Court of Appeals:	10 yrs practice of law in state or service as judge of court of record
Superior Court:	10 yrs practice of law in state or service as judge of court of record

Selection and retention methods and term lengths are prescribed by [Article VI](#) of the California Constitution

## **Judicial Positions**

**Judge:** An official of the judicial branch of government with authority to decide lawsuits brought before the court. Elected or appointed by Governor.

**Commissioner:** A person elected by the judges of the court and given the power to hear and make decisions in certain kinds of legal matters.

**Referee:** A person appointed by the Court and make decisions on limited legal matters such as juvenile or traffic offenses.

**Judge Pro Tem:** A person or judge appointed by the Presiding Judge of a particular county to sit temporarily on a given court usually in the regular judge's absence.

**Temporary Judge:** A member of the State Bar appointed by the court and stipulated to by the parties to hear cases and make decisions in certain kinds of legal matters.

## **Voter Guide by County**

### **Alameda County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate: Philip Daly

### **Alpine County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate: Karen Dustman

### **Amador County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

### **Butte County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

### **Calaveras County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

### **Colusa County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

### **Contra Costa County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

### **Del Norte County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

### **El Dorado County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate: Steven C. Bailey

### **Fresno County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate: Glenn Lostracco

**Glenn County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate: None

**Humboldt County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Imperial County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Inyo County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate: None

**Kern County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate: Matt Brady

**Kings County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate: Judge James Laporte

**Lake County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Lassen County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Los Angeles County**

On June 3, 2008, eleven (11) judicial seats will be contested in Los Angeles County. The California Republican Lawyers Association has decided not to endorse in most of these races for various reasons. However, in a few of these races we have elected to make recommendations and in other races we have provided some background information on the individual candidates. We hope that this will allow you to make informed decisions.

- ***CRLA makes one (1) recommendation in Los Angeles County. CRLA Recommends Michael Jesic in Office 154***

Office 4

Ralph Dau

Incumbent Judge

LA Bar Association rates him exceptionally qualified

Endorsed by Robert Philobosian

Syndee Singer

Solo Practitioner

LA Bar Association rates her qualified

Endorsed by San Fernando National Organization of Women

Office 69

Serena Murillo

Deputy District Attorney

Democrat

LA Bar Association gave no rating

Democrat

Endorsed by Steve Cooley, Mayor Villaraigosa and several newspapers

Harvey Silberman

Superior Court Commissioner

Democrat

Endorsed by several Democrat elected officials, LA County Democratic Party,  
Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association

Office 72

Marc Alain Chomel

Deputy District Attorney

Democrat

LA Bar Association rates him well qualified

Endorsed by Steve Cooley, Torrance and Beach Cities Democrat Club, Several  
Superior Court Judges

Hillari Grossman Merritt

Deputy District Attorney

Democrat

LA Bar Association rates her well qualified

Steven Simons

Civil Attorney in Private Practice

Republican

LA Bar Association rates him qualified

Endorsed by LA County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

Office 82

Mark Lee

Deputy District Attorney

LA Bar Association rates him qualified

Endorsed by several Superior Court Judges and Michelle Steel

Cynthia Loo

Superior Court Referee

LA Bar Association rates her qualified

Endorsed by several Democrat leaders and clubs such as San Fernando NOW and LA County Democratic Party

Tom Rubinson

Deputy District Attorney

LA Bar Association rates him well qualified

Endorsed by Steve Cooley, LA County Supervisors Mike Antonovich and Don Knabe and several Democrat Clubs

Office 84

Pat Connolly

Deputy District Attorney

Republican

LA Bar Association rates him not qualified

Endorsed by Republican Party of Los Angeles

John Gutierrez

Administrative Law Judge (Workers Comp)

Democrat

LA Bar Association rates him well qualified

Lori Ann Jones

Superior Court Commissioner

Democrat

LA Bar Association rates her not qualified

Endorsed by Steve Cooley, several Democrat elected officials and several Democrat clubs

Bob Henry  
Deputy Attorney General  
LA Bar Association rates him not qualified

Office 94

Eduard R. Abele  
Deputy District Attorney  
Republican  
LA Bar Association rates him qualified  
Endorsed by Steve Cooley, Greg Totten (DA of Ventura County), several  
Republican elected officials including Tony Strickland and Mike Antonovich

C. Edward Mack  
Public Defender  
Democrat  
LA Bar Association rates him qualified  
Endorsed by LA Democratic Party

Michael O’Gara  
Deputy District Attorney  
LA Bar Association rates him well qualified  
Endorsed by Steve Cooley, Lee Baca, Mike Antonovich, Don Knabe and LA  
County Lincoln Club

Office 95

Patricia Nieto  
Superior Court Commissioner  
Democrat  
LA Bar Association rates her well qualified  
Endorsed by Mayor Villaraigosa, Gil Cedillo, Gloria Romero and AFL-CIO

Lance Winters  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
Democrat  
LA Bar Association rates him exceptionally well qualified  
Endorsed by several Republican and Democrat elected officials including Bill  
Lockyear and Dan Lundgren. Several Democrat and Republican organizations.

Office 119

Robert Davenport  
Retired LT. Colonel  
Republican  
LA Bar Association rates him not qualified  
Endorsed by Republican Party of Los Angeles

Jared Moss  
Deputy District Attorney  
Democrat  
LA Bar Association rates him well qualified  
Endorsed by several Republican and Democrat leaders and several Judges

Douglas Weitzman  
Consumer Law Attorney  
Democrat  
LA Bar Association rates him not qualified

Office 123

Richard A. Nixon  
Attorney  
Republican  
LA Bar Association rates him not qualified

Allen Nadir  
LA Deputy City Attorney  
Republican  
LA Bar Association rates him not qualified

Kathleen Blanchard  
Deputy District Attorney  
Democrat  
LA Bar Association rates her qualified  
Endorsed by Steve Cooley, Mike Antonovich and Janice Hahn, LA Lincoln Club  
and several Democratic Clubs

Office 125

James Bianco  
Court Commissioner  
Democrat  
LA Bar Association rates him well qualified  
Endorsed by Alan Lowenthal and Sheila Kuehl

Bill Johnson  
International Lawyer  
LA Bar Association rates him not qualified

Office 154

Paul Bruguera  
Deputy Attorney General  
LA Bar Association rates him not qualified

Rocky Crabb  
Court Commissioner  
Democrat  
LA Bar Association rates him well qualified  
Endorsed by the LA Democratic Party

Michael Jesic  
***(CRLA Recommended)***  
Deputy District Attorney  
Republican  
LA Bar Association rates him well qualified  
Endorsed by Republican Party of Los Angeles County, LA Lincoln Club and  
several Judges

**Madera County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate: Ernie Li Calsi  
District Attorney of Madera County

**Marin County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Mariposa County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Mendocino County**

CRLA provides no endorsement or recommendations in this race.

**Merced County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Modoc County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Mono County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Monterey County**

CRLA provides no endorsement or recommendations in this race.

**Napa County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Nevada County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Orange County**

There are four (4) contested judicial elections this term. We have made three endorsements.

*Office 4*

CRLA Endorsed Candidate Nick Thompson

*Office 8*

CRLA Endorsed Candidate Jon Fish

*Office 12*

CRLA Endorsed Candidate Kermit Marsh

**Placer County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Plumas County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

### **Riverside County**

There are two (2) contested judicial elections this term. We have made two endorsements.

#### *Office 6*

CRLA Endorsed Candidate Mike Rushton

#### *Office 18*

CRLA Endorsed Candidate John Malloy

### **Sacramento County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

### **San Benito County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

### **San Bernadino County**

There are two (2) contested judicial elections this term. We have made two endorsements.

#### *Office 7*

CRLA Endorsed Candidate James Gass

#### *Office 10*

CRLA Endorsed Candidate Cheryl Kersey

### **San Diego County**

There are two (2) contested judicial elections this term. We have made two endorsements.

#### *Office 19*

CRLA Endorsed Candidate Paul Cooper

#### *Office 45*

CRLA Endorsed Candidate Robert Faigen

**San Francisco County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate Judge Thomas Mellon

**San Joaquin County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate Phil Urie

**San Luis Obispo County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**San Mateo County**

CRLA provides no endorsement or recommendations in this race.

**Santa Barbara County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate John McKinnon

**Santa Clara County**

CRLA provides no endorsement or recommendations in this race.

**Shasta County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate Dan Flynn

**Sierra County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Siskiyou County**

CRLA provides no endorsement or recommendations in this race

**Solano County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Sonoma County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Stanislaus County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Sutter County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Tehama County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Trinity County**

CRLA Endorsed Candidate James Woodward

**Tulare County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Tuolumne County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

**Ventura County**

CRLA endorses Jeff Bennett in this race.

**Yolo County**

CRLA provides no endorsement or recommendations in this race.

**Yuba County**

No Contested Judicial Elections on June 3, 2008

A special thank you to all of the members of the CRLA Judges Committee, your hard work made this voter guide possible.

Kevin Muldoon	Orange County
Ken Minesinger	Riverside
Kristen Lucero	UC Davis
Francis Barraza	UC Davis
Jamie Huff	Sacramento
Craig Alexander	Orange County
Cesar Tamandong	Bay Area
Steve Kaufhold	Bay Area
Adam Abrahms	Los Angeles