

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Endorsement Questionnaire

Thank you for your interest in obtaining an endorsement from the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club.

Per the Club's bylaws, to be eligible for endorsement, a candidate must be a registered Democrat. All candidates must also complete this candidate questionnaire to be considered for an endorsement. Endorsements are decided by the general membership, and candidates must receive at least 60% of votes cast to be endorsed.

The deadline for questionnaires is posted on the East Bay Stonewall website (<http://eastbaystonewalldemocrats.org/Elections>). Any candidate submitting a questionnaire that is received after the deadline will not appear on the endorsement ballot. To ensure a fair process, no grace period will be granted.

Please return your completed questionnaire via Google forms by clicking submit at the bottom of this form. All form submissions are final. If you have questions, please contact Ryan LaLonde, Interim EBSDC PAC chair via email at [REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Name (First Last) *

Michael Johnson

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

Office you are seeking? (e.g. City Council, School Board, Supervisor, etc) *

Alameda County Superior Court Judge, Seat #12

Jurisdiction *

Alameda County

District *

N/A

Are you an East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club member in good standing? If you are unsure, *
email eastbaystonewalldems@gmail.com.

Yes

No

I self-identify as: (check all boxes that apply; note these identifiers will be used publicly during our endorsement process.) *

Gay

Lesbian

Transgender

Gender non-conforming

Bisexual

Queer

Straight

Other:

How have you participated in East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club activities, and/or supported the Club other ways? What other LGBTQ+ organizations are you affiliated with and in what capacity? What other Democratic clubs are you affiliated with? *

This is a question that is political in nature. The Judicial Canons of Ethics govern my conduct as a judicial candidate and prohibit me from responding to any question or engaging in any conduct that is inconsistent with the independence, integrity or impartiality of the judiciary. Accordingly, I am prohibited from responding to this question.
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Using specific examples, please identify the causes you have advocated for and the ways you have helped advance LGBTQ+ rights or otherwise helped foster a community of inclusivity for LGBTQ+ individuals and families. *

This is a question that is political in nature. The Judicial Canons of Ethics govern my conduct as a judicial candidate and prohibit me from responding to any question or engaging in any conduct that is inconsistent with the independence, integrity or impartiality of the judiciary. Accordingly, I am prohibited from responding to this question as posed. However as a Temporary Judge and if successful in this election, at all times I will continue to adhere to all laws under the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of California for all matters that come before me.
.....

Have you previously supported LGBTQ+ candidates for office? If yes, did that include financial support? *

This is a question that is political in nature. The Judicial Canons of Ethics govern my conduct as a judicial candidate and prohibit me from responding to any question or engaging in any conduct that is inconsistent with the independence, integrity or impartiality of the judiciary. Accordingly, I am prohibited from responding to this question as posed.

Which LGBTQ+ organizations and elected officials have formally endorsed you for this race? *

Please refer to my campaign website for a current listing of my endorsements. Please note that list is continuously being updated.

Please describe a policy/goal that is part of your formal platform that benefits the LGBTQ+ community? *

This is a question that is political in nature. The Judicial Canons of Ethics govern my conduct as a judicial candidate and prohibit me from responding to any question or engaging in any conduct that is inconsistent with the independence, integrity or impartiality of the judiciary. Accordingly, I am prohibited from responding to this question as posed. However as a Temporary Judge and if successful in this election, at all times I will continue to adhere to all laws under the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of California for all matters that come before me.

What makes you uniquely qualified for the office and how are you different or unique from the other candidates in your race? *

I am uniquely qualified for this office and markedly unique from my opponent because I have been regularly serving as a Temporary Judge in Alameda County Superior Court since 2019, certified to hear traffic, family law, civil harassment and small claims matters. My opponent has only been serving as a Commissioner hearing traffic matters since March 2023 and is still under probation in that role.

Alameda County Superior Court Presiding Judge Charles Smiley has recently provided me with a letter of recommendation that states in part, "...Michael's work as a pro tem judge ranks among the finest in our county... I have personally observed Michael's professionalism as judge pro tem. On the bench, he is thoughtful, courteous, composed, and patient. He communicates well and effectively with litigants, witnesses, spectators, and court staff alike. We are relieved when Michael answers our call for coverage because we know he will arrive on time, well-prepared, and deliver high-quality judicial work..."

In my 33 years as a practicing attorney, I have amassed significant legal expertise in the areas of civil law, civil rights, complex civil law and criminal law trial experience as well as complex transactional experience in a multiplicity of practice areas including, but not limited to: data privacy; data security, consumer privacy; healthcare law and technology; telecommunications; corporate law/transactions; landlord tenant; commercial transactions; commercial real estate transactions; media transactions; media streaming; media broadcasting and satellite agreements; internet transactions; corporate governance; marketing. consumer and business sales.

For decades, I have been an active member of the Alameda County Bar Association (ACBA) as well as the ACBA's non-profit Volunteer Legal Services Corp. (now, Legal Access Alameda). I have been honored to have served as the President of the Board of Directors for both of those organizations. I am a Lifetime Member of the Charles Houston Bar Association, a non-profit organization comprised of African American lawyers, judges, and law students throughout Northern California. And I'm also a member of CABL (California Association of Black Lawyers) as well as the National Bar Association (a global network of African American attorneys and judges) and the American Bar Association.

Beyond the legal arena, Michael has dedicated over 30 years, helping Oakland and Alameda County residents in their moments of hardship to secure legal equality and access to justice not only as an attorney but also by volunteering his time in numerous community and legal organizations as well as schools, such as:

- ✓ General Counsel, Life Member and Board member of the Charles Houston Bar Association/Charles Houston Bar Institute
- ✓ Mentor, Oakland Tech High School Race, Policy & Law Pathway Program
- ✓ Mentor, The DeAnza High School Law Academy
- ✓ Active member of The 100 Black Men of the Bay Area, Inc.
- ✓ Past President of the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Bar Association (ACBA)
- ✓ Past President of the Board of Directors of Legal Access Alameda (formerly ACBA Volunteer Legal Services Corp.)
- ✓ Past Commissioner, CA State Bar Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission
- ✓ Immediate Past Co-Chair of the Judicial Council of California's Bench Bar Coalition
- ✓ Attorney Volunteer, Alameda County Lawyers in the Library Program

For the past 2 years I have also served as a court appointed settlement attorney for Santa Clara County Superior Court for all civil matters.

The aforementioned legal and community experience is significant and uniquely qualifies me over my opponent in this election for Judge of the Superior Court. However, the most important characteristics or qualities for ANY candidate for Superior Court Judge to possess is impartiality and fairness. It is in those areas where I am demonstrably and markedly differentiated from my opponent.

For example, at the recent Alameda County Central Democratic Club endorsement meeting, my opponent was asked who he voted for and supported in the last DA election. To cheers from the crowd present at the meeting, he gleefully responded that he voted for and supports Pamela Price (the current DA who is subject to a very hotly debated public recall election). Citing the Judicial Canons of Ethics, I correctly refused to answer that question

That response by my opponent was not only expressly prohibited by the Canons of Judicial Ethics, but has drawn the ridicule of several media publications because it also compromised the integrity and impartiality of the court and has called into question the impartiality of my opponent—especially should he succeed in his effort to be elected as a judge.

See the attached sample articles:

<https://www.ebar.com/story.php?ch=news&sc=news&id=330706>

<https://www.ebar.com/story.php?ch=opinion&sc=editorial&id=330805>

In conclusion, the role of a judge requires impartiality, fairness and a lack of bias. My opponents own words and actions in this campaign have clearly demonstrated that his impartiality and fairness is now very much in question.

Accordingly, given the foregoing, I am uniquely qualified over my opponent to be a Judge of the Alameda County Superior Court and I humbly request the endorsement of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club.

Thank you,

Michael P. Johnson, Esq.

Candidate for Alameda County Superior Court Judge, Seat #12

This form was created inside of Shay Franco-Clausen.

Google Forms