



*Educating the Public to Improve the Justice System for Minority Communities*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Washington Coalition of Minority Legal Professionals  
Announces 2018 Ratings of Prosecuting Attorney Candidates**

Seattle (October 15, 2018 [corrected on October 29, 2018]) – The Washington Coalition of Minority Legal Professionals today announced its 2018 ratings of candidates for the office of prosecuting attorney in Whatcom County, Pierce County, and King County.

The Washington Coalition of Minority Legal Professionals ([www.wcmlp.org](http://www.wcmlp.org)) is a nonpartisan joint committee of participating minority bar associations formed to carry out the evaluation and rating of candidates for law-enforcement positions in Washington State. The Coalition, which launched this year, includes:

- Asian Bar Association of Washington
- Korean American Bar Association of Washington
- Latina/o Bar Association of Washington
- Loren Miller Bar Association (serving African-American legal professionals)
- Northwest Indian Bar Association
- QLaw Association of Washington (serving LGBT legal professionals)
- South Asian Bar Alliance of Washington
- Vietnamese-American Bar Association of Washington
- Washington Women Lawyers

A primary goal of the Coalition is to ensure that persons seeking election to law-enforcement positions, especially prosecuting attorney, recognize the concerns of marginalized communities and are committed to fairness, equal justice, improving the justice system, and consideration of alternatives to the criminal system for achieving justice for victims, offenders, and the community.

“Prosecutors are the key to criminal justice reform,” said Dan Shih, who chairs the Coalition. “The minority associations that make up our Coalition draw from communities that may be highly and disproportionately impacted by prosecutor elections. They have an interest in ending mass incarceration and seeing our criminal justice system work better.”

The Coalition’s ratings are nonpartisan and take into account whether a candidate is expected to be effective in office, will serve the interests of the community and society, and is committed to the fair administration of justice and improvement of the criminal and civil justice system from the perspective of the minority bar associations. Ratings are based on a candidate’s questionnaire responses and interview (if the candidate participates), reference checks, and independent research by the Coalition.

The Coalition’s rating scale allows for the following ratings, from lowest to highest: Not Qualified, Adequate, Good, Very Good, and Outstanding.

The Coalition’s 2018 ratings are listed in the table below.

<b>Whatcom County</b>	
Eric Richey	GOOD
James Erb	GOOD
<b>Pierce County</b>	
Mark Lindquist	NOT QUALIFIED
Mary Robnett	ADEQUATE
<b>King County</b>	
Dan Satterberg	VERY GOOD
Daron Morris	NOT RATED (The Coalition opted not to rate this candidate based on his statement that he had suspended his campaign.)

“The goal of our ratings is to educate the public,” said Mary Reiten, the Coalition’s vice chair. “Prosecutor races are often low-information elections. We hope to improve the public’s understanding of these races through our ratings—and to encourage people to vote.”

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**CORRECTION:** A previous release misidentified “South Asian Bar Association of Washington” instead of “South Asian Bar Alliance of Washington” as part of the Coalition.

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