

Educating the Public to Improve the Justice System for Minority Communities

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Washington Coalition of Minority Legal Professionals Announces 2021 Ratings of Seattle City Attorney Candidates

Seattle (October 5, 2021) – The Washington Coalition of Minority Legal Professionals today announced its 2021 ratings of candidates for the office of Seattle City Attorney.

The Washington Coalition of Minority Legal Professionals (<a href="www.wcmlp.org">www.wcmlp.org</a>) 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 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)
- Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington
- QLaw Association of Washington (serving LGBTQ+ legal professionals)
- South Asian Bar Association 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, including City Attorney, are persons of high integrity and professional ability, recognize the concerns of marginalized communities, and are committed to fairness, equal justice, and improving the justice system. The Coalition's ratings are nonpartisan and take into account whether a candidate is expected to be effective in office and will serve the interests of the community and society.

Ratings are based on a candidate's questionnaire responses and interview, reference checks, and independent research by the Coalition. The questionnaire responses are available at the Coalition's website, <a href="https://www.wcmlp.org">www.wcmlp.org</a>.

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 2021 ratings are listed in the table below.

Seattle City Attorney	
Nicole Thomas-Kennedy	ADEQUATE
Ann Davison	NOT QUALIFIED

A rating of "Adequate" applies to a candidate with a record of participation and interest in improving the criminal justice system, but who may raise questions about suitability as an office holder or may need to work to fill gaps in their knowledge or skills.

A rating of "Not Qualified" applies to a candidate with a record that casts doubt on their ability to deal with the responsibilities of office, or who has a narrow focus, inflexible attitudes, or is otherwise troubling.

"The goal of our ratings is to educate the public," said Dan Shih, the Coalition's chair. "Law-enforcement races warrant attention. We hope to improve the public's understanding of these races through our ratings—and to encourage people to vote."

## Contact:

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Note: The Chair was not a voting member in the rating process.

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