



**Candidate Questionnaire for
San Francisco Superior Court Judge, seat 7
Primary Election, June 7, 2016**

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org **no later than Tuesday, March 29th**. Candidates who do not return the questionnaire by the due date will not be invited to participate in the April 5th forum. The completed questionnaires will be made available to our members online.

Candidate name: Sigrid Elizabeth Irias

Contact person: same

Email address: sigrid.iriass@iriasslaw.com

Phone number: 415-805-8460 (direct) or 415-341-3710 (cell)

Web site: www.iriassforjudge.com

Current occupation: attorney

Please write a brief response (≤ 200 words) to each question.

1. Why do you want to be a Superior Court Judge?

Part of what draws me to being a judge is the intellectual challenge and the variety of skills required, ranging from the ability to learn new substantive and procedural issues quickly, to the ability to communicate well in writing and orally. But the role of a judge most importantly is to ensure fairness, predictability, and confidence in the judicial process, in applying the rules of law, in exercising judicial discretion when authorized, and in administering the equitable power of the court.

My experience provides a solid basis for service as a judge, and my temperament, including attributes of lack of bias, patience, and respect for others regardless of economic, social, cultural, or other circumstance, also makes me well qualified. Judges are servants of the community, which needs solid, level-headed, unbiased, and independent judges. I have devoted a lot of time already to pro bono volunteer service to the community as an arbitrator for the San Francisco

Homeless Shelter's dispute resolution program, to the San Francisco Superior Court's Early Settlement Conference program, and to the pro tem program in San Francisco. I want to dedicate my work and career to service in this way.

2. How does your particular experience qualify you for this office?

I have broad life and legal experience. A native San Franciscan, I raised three children here. For over 20 years, I worked with one of the City's biggest and most respected law firms, and I have tried a number of cases to judgment.

The Judiciary Committee of the Bar Association of San Francisco concluded previously that I am well qualified to serve as a judge on the Superior Court of San Francisco; since then, in addition to private practice as an attorney, I have continued to serve as a pro bono arbitrator for San Francisco's Shelter Grievance program, and I serve frequently as a volunteer, pro tem, judge for the court.

Judges must be independent and unbiased. Correspondence from the City's Housing and Homeless Division, attached, notes in part: *"She is adept and patient in communicating with both shelter clients and staff, and understanding both sides of the issue from an unbiased viewpoint. We have found that even the parties that do not win the arbitration feel that the process is fair, and we have been very fortunate to have Sigrid Irias' pro bono participation in and support for the Shelter Grievance program."*

For more information, see www.iriasthejudge.com.

3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?

Every candidate is different. Some of what distinguishes me:

- I serve regularly as a volunteer pro tem judge in San Francisco.
- I have been recognized by my peers for legal experience, ethics, and ability. I have served on the Executive Committee of the Edward J. McFetridge Inn of Court since 2011, and am A.V. rated by Martindale Hubbell, endorsed for high ethical standing by my peers: <http://www.martindale.com/Sigrid-Elizabeth-Pauline-Irias/239444-lawyer.htm?view=cr>. In 2014 I was appointed to the State Bar's Committee on Administration of Justice.
- I have published and presented in the area of legal ethics. One of my recent articles was included on the reading list for a class at Fordham Law School.
- I am past president of San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association and co-chair of the Minority Bar Coalition, with endorsements from members of many minority bar associations, and many trial and appellate judges.
- I worked my way through U.C. Hastings College of the Law as a single mother. My non-legal work includes two years teaching junior high in San Francisco during a sabbatical in the late 1990s, and over 10 years coaching Abraham Lincoln High School's mock trial team.

4. What endorsements have you received?

These include:

- Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club
- Many trial and appellate judges, including Cruz Reynoso, retired California Supreme Court Associate Justice
- San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association

- San Francisco Tenants Union
- Tom Ammiano, former Assemblymember

Others, which will exceed the 200-word limit, are on the partial list attached.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service. Pending timely receipt of your questionnaire, we look forward to seeing you at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on April 5th.

Executive Committee, Potrero Hill Democratic Club

City and County of San Francisco



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

Human Services Agency

Department of Human Services
Department of Aging and Adult Services

Trent Rhorer, Executive Director

March 7, 2016

To Whom It May Concern;

This is a letter of acknowledgement on behalf of Sigrid Irias as she seeks election as Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court.

In 2010, Ms. Irias was trained as an arbitrator in the Housing and Homeless Division's Shelter Grievance Program. The Shelter Grievance Program provides due process for clients who have been denied services from a city-funded shelter due to a rule infraction. As a final step in the grievance process, a volunteer attorney conducts an arbitration to hear arguments from all parties and then provide a final outcome decision.

Ms. Irias has been an active pro bono arbitrator over the last six years, skillfully conducting arbitrations. She is adept and patient in communicating with both shelter clients and staff, and understanding both sides of the issue from an unbiased viewpoint.

We have found that even the parties that do not win the arbitration feel that the process is fair, and we have been very fortunate to have Sigrid Irias' pro bono participation in and support for the Shelter Grievance Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joyce Crum", written over a circular stamp.

Joyce Crum, Director
Housing and Homeless Division

Early Endorsers Include*

Judicial Endorsements

Judge Paul H. Alvarado, Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court (Ret.)

Judge Suzanne R. Bolanos, Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court

Judge Daniel A. Flores, Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court

Justice Daniel (Mike) Hanlon, California Court of Appeal (Ret.)

Judge Matthew Harris, Judge of the Santa Clara County Superior Court

Justice Miguel Márquez, Associate Justice, Sixth District, California Court of Appeals

Justice Cruz Reynoso, former California Supreme Court Associate Justice

Justice Maria P. Rivera, Associate Justice, First District, California Court of Appeals

Judge A. James Robertson II, Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court

Judge Alex Saldamando, Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court (Ret.)

Judge Mark Talamantes, Judge of the Marin County Superior Court

Judge Edward Torpoco, San Francisco Superior Court

Organizational Endorsements

East Bay La Raza Lawyers Association

Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association

San Francisco Tenants Union

South Asian Bar Association – Northern California

Community Leaders

Manuel P. Álvarez, past president, San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association

Tom Ammiano, Former Assemblymember, California Assembly

John Avalos, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Xochitl Carrión, Assistant District Attorney, San Francisco District Attorney's office; past San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association president; past chair, California Law Revision Commission

Paul Chavez, Executive Director, Centro Legal de la Raza, past Executive Director of Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights

Petra DeJesus, San Francisco Police Commission, Democratic County Central Committee

Carmen Flores, first woman president of San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association

****All titles for identification purposes only***

Juan Pedro Gaffney, founder and director, Coro Hispano de San Francisco

Genevie Gallegos, former Executive Director, La Raza Centro Legal

Jesús Guillén, founder, HIV Long Term Survivors Group

Ernest H. Llorente, co-founder and past president, Filipino Bar Association of Northern California

Rafael Mandelman, Democratic County Central Committee

Victor Márquez, former National President, Hispanic National Bar Association, ABA Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Commissioner

Shahpour Matloob, Iranian American Bar Association, Northern California chapter, board member

Martha Melendez, past Mexican American Bar Association president, past member of the Board of Trustees for The Mexican Museum

Mercedes Moreno, Assistant District Attorney, San Francisco District Attorney's office (ret.); past San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association president

José R. Padilla, Executive Director, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.

Yesenia Santacruz, former president, San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association

John Trasviña, Dean, USF School of Law, former assistant secretary for fair housing and equal opportunity in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, former president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Business Owners, Students, Attorneys, Educators, and Others

Elena Asturias, CFO, Paniagua Construction, Inc.

Shaamini Babu, attorney

A. Baltazar Baca, Trial Attorney, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C. (Ret.), Founder, Hispanic National Bar Association

Boone Callaway, attorney, Callaway & Wolfe

Francisco Cancino, Regional Attorney, EEOC (Ret.)

Katherine Catlos, attorney and Partner, Kaufman, Dolovich & Voluck LLP

Richard J. Collier, attorney, Partner, Cooper, White & Cooper LLP

Joseph Creitz, attorney, U.C. Hastings College of the Law Adjunct Professor

Bobby Crotwell, SFUSD high school teacher, Abraham Lincoln High School

Leo Delucchi, former principal, St. Emydius School; former principal, St. Elizabeth School

Robert DeVries, attorney

Ben Feuer, attorney, Chairman, California Appellate Law Group

Josué R. Fuentes, attorney, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office; SF La Raza Lawyers Association president

****All titles for identification purposes only***

Sergio C. García, first recognized undocumented California attorney

Angel Garganta, attorney and partner, Venable LLP

Maciej Glodek, past president, St. Stanislaus Benevolent Society, Inc.

Matthew Gluck, attorney and founding partner, Gluck Daniel LLP

Carolyn Gold, Supervising Attorney, Justice & Diversity Center

Matt Gramly, senior trial attorney, Dolan Law Firm

Timothy C. Hale, Esq., Partner, Nye, Peabody, Stirling, Hale & Miller LLP

David Henry, owner, The Doctor's Lounge

Laura Hurtado, attorney, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Stephen W. Jones, retired partner, Sedgwick LLP

Ike Kaludi, attorney

James Yuanxin Li, attorney

Ana María Loya, civil rights attorney, U.S. Department of Education

Claudia Lucatero, San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association board member

Rochelle McCune, owner, The Doctor's Lounge

Dan McLennon, attorney, Partner, Smith Currie & Hancock LLP

Crystal Matson, staff attorney; Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights

Myrna Melgar

Julia A. Molander, attorney, Partner, Cozen O'Conner

Erin Morgan, attorney

Madhuri Nemali, attorney

John Ottoboni, of counsel, Ferrari, Ottoboni, Caputo & Wunderling

Angela Owczarek, Jesuit Volunteer, Jesuit Volunteer Corps

David Pai, Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice

Tom Paoli, trial attorney, Paoli and Geerhart, LLP

Alexander L. Peña, U.C. Hastings College of the Law student, Vice President, Share the Law

Edgar J. Quezada, attorney, Hanna Brophy, president-elect of San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association

Tony Quintero, Executive Producer, Arau Films International; founding member, National Association of Latino State Chambers of Commerce

Shaana Rahman, trial attorney, Rahman Law PC

****All titles for identification purposes only***

Michael V. Rios, artist

Kelly Robbins, attorney, Robbins Family Law

Eduardo Roy, attorney

Hector Ruíz, student, U.C. Hastings College of the Law

Donna Rutter, attorney, Rutter Law Group

Joe Salama, attorney

Julián Sánchez, attorney, San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association board of directors

Don Schaffer, California Highway Patrol (Ret.)

Christopher Seiwald, founder, Perforce Software

Jackie Shull-González, attorney, Centro Legal de la Raza

Roger W. Sleight, attorney, retired partner, Sedgwick LLP

Audrey A. Smith, attorney

Niki Solis, San Francisco Public Defender's office, past president, San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association

Sam Stafford, software engineer, Perforce Software

Takashi Tanemori, Hiroshima survivor and peace activist

Francisco Ugarte, immigration attorney

Victor M. Vasquez, vice president, Bank of San Francisco

Kelly Van Aken, attorney, Partner, Kellogg & Van Aken LLP

William L. Veen, The Veen Firm, PC, past San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association president*

Claudia Vetesi, attorney, Morrison & Foerster LLP

Virginia Villegas, attorney, Villegas Carrera LLP

Elvin Vu, attorney

****All titles for identification purposes only***