

Candidates for Judicial Delegate

At the February 12 Club meeting, members will be voting to endorse 6 candidates for Judicial Delegate and 6 alternates. The following Club members have submitted information about their candidacy.

Sam Bartos--is an active litigation lawyer, has lived in Manhattan Valley for over 25 years, and recently served as an alternate delegate to the judicial convention. He is currently co-chair of the New York County Lawyers' Committee on Solo and Small Firm Practice, having served for five years as secretary of NYCLA's Federal Courts Committee. He is proud of our unusual judicial selection process, which emphasizes qualifications, the highest legal principles, and the independence of judges as they examine facts impartially in their search for the truth.

Alan Flacks—is an experienced delegate to the Judicial Nominating Convention, having served many times. He is conversant with the procedures (delegates seek his guidance) and is committed to the merit screening panel process (which he helped establish). After each convention, Alan writes a report of the proceedings for club members and other interested people. A long-time TPID member and Democratic County Committee member, Alan also has served as the club's membership secretary and also as the corresponding secretary. Community and civic activities include his block association, the 24th Pct. Community Council, the NAACP, and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Community Advisory Board.

Elaine Hazzard--has resided in the Upper West Side for 24 years. She is a licensed NY attorney,

has appeared at trials and hearings in Federal and State courts, and is admitted to the bars of four states and the U.S. Supreme Court. Elaine has been a court-appointed arbitrator and has taught law. As a Judicial Delegate in 2019 she helped select Jennifer Schecter as our successful Democratic judicial candidate. Elaine looks forward to choosing more excellent judges to safeguard our threatened democracy. She will seek strong, independent judges who will stand against injustice and organized crime and stand up for the rights of individuals.

Audrey Isaacs—has been a very active Alternate Judicial Delegate for the past eight years. She goes to the courtroom of each judge who is seeking elevation to Supreme Court Justice in order to see him/her presiding in judicial proceedings. She prepares charts comparing the qualifications of candidates for elevation. From 1975 to 2000 she was an attorney in private practice, specializing in litigation; she appeared for clients in state and federal courts, and city, state and federal agencies. From 1996 to 2008 she was an Administrative Law Judge. In 2008 she was promoted to supervise an administrative courthouse with seven Administrative Judges.

Elizabeth Kellner—is a retired attorney, living in Manhattan Valley for 43 years. A member of TPID for 40 years, she has served as a Judicial Delegate or Alternate several times, as well as Club President and board member. As an attorney, her work involved litigation, i.e., disputes in court. Since retiring, in addition to various Democratic campaigns, Elizabeth has served on the board of a major network of community health care clinics, a public interest foundation affiliated with Columbia Law School (her alma mater), and a child advocacy policy not-for-profit. Her husband maintains an active practice in the New York courts where he

regularly follows developments. Her two adult children teach in New York City.

Bruce Markens—has been elected as Judicial Delegate or Alternate on eight different occasions. He served eight years on the TPID Board, including one year as Recording Secretary. He co-chaired the club's Education Committee and helped formulate TPID's resolution supporting a moratorium on charter school expansion and opposing their co-location in public school buildings. He was active in the Sweatshop Free Upper West Side Campaign, fighting wage theft and exploitation of restaurant and nail salon workers. He participated in Presidential storefronts in 2008, 2012, and 2016 and canvassed for various Congressional candidates in 2018.

Merle McEldowney--Merle met Three Parks during the 2006 John Hall Campaign. But it was during 2008 Obama campaign that she began to volunteer at the Obama storefront. Then she really learned about the club and became a TPID member. In 2016 she coordinated TPID efforts to aid the Zephyr Teachout campaign. She has worked on issues such as hydraulic fracturing, TPP, Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare. Merle strongly believes that TPID's grassroots efforts—sending letters, making phone calls, and creating whatever legal mischief we can—will help hold our elected officials' feet to the fire. Merle served as Three Parks president from 2017-2019.

Alfred Placeres, Esq.—has been a Manhattan Valley resident since the 1950s and a Three Parks member since the 1980s. He holds a B.A. from Fordham University and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He was formerly a staff attorney for Harlem Legal Services and maintained a law office at 2710 Broadway from

1982 to 2015. He is a former Board Member of Community Board 7, a former President of the NYS Federation of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, a former Board Member of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the former Chair, Immigration Law Committee, of the Hispanic National Bar Association, and the author of "Como Conseguir Los Papeles" (Seven Stories Press). Civic Awards include Mayor Bloomberg's Small Business Advocate Award, the NYS Comptroller H. Carl McCall Civic Service Award, and the Greater NY Chamber of Commerce Small Business Advocate Award. Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer proclaimed July 15, 2019, Alfred Placeres Appreciation Day.

Stephanie Tegnazian—has been a TPID member for over 25 years and involved in the judiciary selection process since Lloyd McAuley began the interview forums. She has visited Housing Court, Court of Claims, Family Court, Civil Court, Supreme Court, and Appellate Court to better understand how judges do their jobs. Stephanie has worked on campaigns for Borough President Gale Brewer, State Senator Robert Jackson, and Congresspersons Max Rose (Staten Island) and Jess King (PA). Last year she became involved with NY VOTES, a statewide grassroots advocacy group dedicated to guiding lawmakers in Albany on what needs to be changed in our NYS voting laws. She feels highly qualified to be a judicial representative and represent TPID in this highly important process.

Deborah Thomas--I have lived on the Upper West Side (Manhattan Valley) for 35 years, have been a lifelong Democrat, and have served on the NY County Committee since 2006. I am a former board member and current club member of Three Parks Independent Democrats since 2004, and have been

active with TPID doing petitioning, tabling, phone banking for candidates, working at the Obama and Hillary Victory storefronts in 2008, 2012 and 2016, and fighting for health care reform and saving Social Security. I volunteer as a Cat Adoption Counselor at the NYC Animal Care Center (City shelter) and am a dedicated advocate for animal welfare issues. Outside of politics, I am an opera singer and a retired music and theater teacher in the NYC public schools, where I co-wrote the curriculum for the “ESL through the Arts” program, which uses the arts to help English language learners gain a greater command of the English language.

Lauren Williams--was co-manager for the Clinton/Kaine Campaign Center and TPID president for 2016 and 2015. She also served as membership director, corresponding secretary, newsletter editor, recording secretary, and board member at large. She welcomes the opportunity to serve as a Judicial Delegate, especially given the Trump administration’s attacks on our justice system and the importance of the selection process for judges.

Robert Bardin and Jacob Sher have also been nominated for Judicial Delegate, but their bios were not yet available when we went to print.