



MIKE'S JUDICIAL PICKS FOR NON-LAWYERS – AUGUST 4th PRIMARY

[MIKE STEINBERG · THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020 · READING TIME: 5 MINUTES](#)

It is very difficult for non-lawyers to differentiate between candidates in judicial elections because the judicial races are "nonpartisan" and therefore the candidates' party affiliations do not appear on the ballot. As requested, I have again prepared endorsements for the contested judicial elections on the Ann Arbor ballot. I have also shared my picks in a few lower-profile primary races that impact social justice. I pick the candidates who, in my opinion, are the most progressive.

Although I am a law professor now, and no longer the legal director of the ACLU of Michigan, please know that I am endorsing candidates strictly in my individual capacity, not as a representative of either my former or current employer.

WASHTENAW CIRCUIT COURT

VOTE FOR NICK ROUMEL

The only judicial election on the Ann Arbor ballot this year is the Washtenaw Circuit Court race. There are three candidates and the top two vote-getters in August will face off on the November ballot. We can only vote for one candidate in the primary.

I have endorsed **Nick Roumel** not just because he is a dear friend, but also because he is the most qualified candidate. Nick has done it all. He has been a civil rights attorney for the past 15 years, fighting for the rights of workers, students, and survivors of sexual assault. He also gained invaluable experience in family law and criminal law while a legal services attorney for almost 20 years.

Nick is the only candidate who has extensive experience in all three areas heard by the court (felony, family, civil) and the only candidate to have tried both civil and criminal cases in the circuit court – and he has done so several times. It is no wonder the [poll of Washtenaw County Bar Association](#) members ranked him the most qualified of the three candidates in every category. And, he is the only candidate to be chosen by his peers to be a Reuter “Super Lawyer,” which is reserved for the top 5% of lawyers in the state.

Nick also has strong history of social justice activism. He was the co-chair of the Washtenaw County ACLU Lawyers Committee for 10 years. He also served on the NAACP Legal Redress Committee as well as on the Boards of Michigan Peaceworks, the Ann Arbor Tenants Union, and Scouting for Equality (an LGBT rights group). He was twice elected to the Ann Arbor School Board and helped lead the local fight against school vouchers.

[Concerning the family law docket] Nick has tried a significant number of family law and personal protection cases in Wayne and Washtenaw County, published an article in the Michigan Bar Journal on marital torts, and can draw on his own background in psychology and crisis intervention in preparation for family cases.