

Julie Gardner  
Administrative Director  
King County Bar Association

Sent via e-mail: [julieg@kcba.org](mailto:julieg@kcba.org)

Re: Judicial Screening Committee  
Supreme Court Candidate, Stephen Johnson

Dear Ms. Gardner:

By this letter I wish to inform you that I am electing not to participate in the judicial evaluation process of the King County Bar Association as regards my candidacy for Position 2 on the Washington Supreme Court.

In order to be fair, the process of evaluation of candidates should be nonpartisan and fair. The group of individuals chosen by the King County Bar Association out of which the individual panels are chosen is anything but nonpartisan. The public record shows that during the last three election cycles this group of individuals have contributed approximately \$19,000 to partisan Democratic candidates and \$800 to Republican partisan candidates.

The Supreme Court is a nonpartisan office, yet the people you choose to evaluate candidates for the Court are themselves partisan activists – and heavily tilted toward one side of the partisan scale at that!

Next, your history does not indicate that I am apt to receive a fair evaluation. Two distinguished members of the Supreme Court, Justices Richard Sanders and James Johnson, were each given the lowest evaluation, namely, “not qualified”, and the next to lowest, “adequate”, notwithstanding lengthy and distinguished careers in appellate law.

Justices Sanders and Johnson had in common a reputation for believing in judicial restraint in their judicial philosophy which may have resulted in their manifestly unfair evaluations.

Justices Sanders and Johnson elected not to participate in their subsequent campaigns to the judicial screening process of the Association, concluding that they were treated unfairly and that it would not be a good use of time for them or the Association to undertake the process once again.

I have made the same decision and will not participate in your evaluation process. The citizens of Washington State will make their own evaluation in September and/or November.

Yours very truly,

Stephen L. Johnson