

Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Pennsylvania Primary 2011

- **Name:** Giovanni O. Campbell
- **Judicial post for which you are running:** Court of Common Pleas
- **Current Occupation/employer:** Attorney/Giovanni O. Campbell Attorney At Law, PC
- **Date of Birth:** 11-18-65
- **Political Party:** Democratic
- **Campaign e-mail and Internet site:**
Giovanni4Judge@gmail.com / www.Giovani4Judge.com
- **Daytime phone (will not be published):** 215-600-1825
- **Digital photo e-mailed to judge@phillynews.com?** Yes/No

1. Why are you qualified and well suited to serve as a judge on the court for which you are running?

I have the integrity, experience, history of public service and the right temperament to be an asset to the Court of Common Pleas.

- **Integrity:** I am well regarded among my peers as a person who deals fairly and ethically. This is because I was raised and taught to treat others as I would like to be treated, and that maxim is part of my daily approach to persons and events. Integrity is one of the qualities that my candidacy offers the Court of Common Pleas.
- **Experience:** My extensive experience as a trial and appellate attorney would add a knowledgeable and productive perspective to all judicial tasks. In my 17 years of practice, I have been more active in state and federal litigation than the vast majority of attorneys. I have handled at least 1,200 cases to completion, have tried hundreds of cases before judges sitting alone and have tried nearly 50 cases before juries, both in federal and state courts. From the multitude of cases I have litigated, I have developed the skill to manage complex legal issues and general application of the law. Thus, I have more than ample experience to serve on the Court of common Pleas.
- **History of Public Service:** My commitment to public service predates law school and continues to this day. Through most of my career, I practiced from Philadelphia neighborhoods to make the legal process more accessible to marginalized communities. From neighborhood locations I have served clients from nearly every part of the City of Philadelphia and beyond. Through Temple's Legal Education and Participation Project (Temple-LEAP) and the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Pro Bono Project, I have taught about the law in Philadelphia high schools; coached high school students for participation in annual mock trial competitions; contributed to teaching/training materials; participated in workshops and seminars with other Law Related Education (LRE) agencies; served as scoring judge dozens of times and was presiding judge in the most recent competition; have assisted with outreach and recruitment of attorneys and students to assist as

volunteers in annual mock trial competitions. Additionally, I have undertaken pro bono projects through the Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP) and the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (PILCOP), where I still serve as a volunteer attorney in civil rights work, as well as consultant regarding criminal matters. I have also undertaken pro bono projects independently, both in civil and criminal matters. Thus, my history in public service offers a community-based perspective that would be an asset to the bench.

- **Judicial Temperament:** From my vast litigation experience and the numerous judges before whom I have appeared, I have learned that respectful and courteous interaction in the courtroom is vital to both fairness and efficiency in the administration of justice. In my career, I have demonstrated the even temperament and refined the sound judgment that are necessary attributes for serving as a judge. If elected, I will strive tirelessly to maintain a forum that is always just, efficient and courteous.

2. Did you receive a rating of “recommended” or higher from the state or local bar association? If not, why not?

The Philadelphia Bar Association Judicial Selection Committee’s rating is pending, and I anticipate a favorable rating shortly after an interview scheduled for Friday, April 15th.

3. If you are an incumbent judge, what’s a recent instance in which you acted to preserve your judicial independence? If you are an aspiring judge, how do you plan to remain independent if elected to the bench?

As a man of character, I would in no way allow a perception of bias to jeopardize my position as judge. If elected, I would recuse myself from any case(s) involving a party, attorney or witness whose involvement may lead to actual or perceived bias.

4. A number of Pennsylvania judges have been sanctioned for campaign activities, ex parte dealings, and other alleged misconduct. How can the state’s judiciary promote ethical behavior among judges and court staff?

The state’s judiciary should require full transparency and disclosure from every person working in the courtroom, including litigants, witnesses and court staff, with regard to any relationships or interests.

5. If you believe that gender, racial, ethnic, class or other forms of bias can infect the justice system, how will you work to keep your courtroom as bias-free as possible?

I have spent most of my career championing the rights of individuals in various settings. As a foreign-born Latino of African descent, I am cognizant that gender, racial, ethnic, class and LGBT differences lead to discrimination on many levels. If elected, I will promote sensitivity and will encourage training about individual differences, and will conduct proceedings in a way that requires compliance with ideals of equality and fairness.