

Name: Kathryn Boockvar

Judicial Post for which you are running: Judge of the Commonwealth Court

Current Occupation/Employer: Attorney, Boockvar Law Office

Date of birth: October 23, 1968

Political Party: Democratic

Campaign email and Internet site: info@boockvar.com, www.boockvar.com

Daytime phone: (215) 345-1267

Digital photo emailed to judge@phillynews.com: YES

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

Throughout my professional career, I have worked on a wide variety of issues including many that are dealt with by the Commonwealth Court, including but not limited to employment, unemployment compensation, disability, voting rights, Right to Know/public records, and administrative agency issues.

I have more than 17 years of experience as an attorney representing Pennsylvanians. My experience has been broad in scope and geography— I have worked in rural Pennsylvania, urban Pennsylvania, and throughout. I have represented countless individuals in labor and employment cases, and am proud to have been named a Rising Star - Super Lawyer of the Pennsylvania Bar three years in a row, when I was still in my 30's. I spent the last three years working statewide in Pennsylvania, and in several other states, to ensure that voting rights and election administration laws are enforced fairly, effectively, and accurately, so that no eligible voter is wrongly disenfranchised.

I have learned through my varied experiences that I not only have the legal ability and judgment to be an effective Judge, but also I have the compassion and even-temperedness to assure those before the Court that they are being listened to, and are being treated with respect and with impartiality. The Commonwealth Court deals with many of the cases I have spent my life working on and care passionately about.

I am also committed to the community, serving on the Board of Directors of A Woman's Place, an organization which provides service, support, education, outreach, and advocacy to victims of domestic violence, their children, and the community. I also have been a member of or participated in the following

Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, Arbitrator, 2005 - present

Pennsylvania Bar Association, Member 1994 - present

Bucks County Bar Association, Member 2008 - present

University of PA Alumni Secondary School Selection Committee, 2008- present

University of PA Alumni Club of Bucks County, Treasurer, 2006 - present

PA Voice, Advisory Board Member, 2009 - 2010; Member 2008 - 2010

Pennsylvania Voter Coalition Member, 2008 - 2010

Bucks County Board of Elections Poll Worker, Doylestown, PA, 2005 - 2006

Pennsylvania Rising Star - Super Lawyer, 2005, 2006, 2007

National Employment Lawyers Association, Firm Member 1998 - 2008
NOLSW/UAW Local 2320, Co-Union Representative, 1995 - 1997

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

Yes. I am extremely proud to be the only Democratic candidate for the Commonwealth Court to have been "recommended" by the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee. The Commission found that I am "regarded as bright, hard working and a zealous advocate for her clients," and that I communicate well and am "experienced in handling cases that regularly come before the Commonwealth Court." The Commission concluded that I "possess the legal ability, experience, integrity and temperament" needed to be a judge on Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Court.

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?

Remaining independent, and being viewed as independent, is a critical part of ensuring faith in and support for our judiciary. I believe the courts should follow strictly, and make clear to the public that they are following, a more stringent ethical code that guides their actions, increases openness, and promotes transparency. I am in favor of regular oversight and clearer standards for recusal for judges and others in positions of power.

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?

As stated above, I believe the courts should follow strictly, and make clear to the public that they are following, a more stringent ethical code that guides their actions, increases openness, and promotes transparency. I am in favor of regular oversight and clearer standards for recusal for judges and others in positions of power.

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 believe there continues to be subtle and sometimes not so subtle gender, racial, ethnic, or other forms of bias in many workplaces and communities, and the legal-judicial system must take extra care to counteract this. As a woman, and someone who has spent much of her career working with people from diverse backgrounds, I will be sensitive to and will make a priority fair and equal treatment, and respect, of everyone, and would expect the same of all those working with and appearing before me.

I have always hired many women and people of color as employees. I believe the justice system and all those who come before it benefit from diverse participation, and I would encourage outreach, internship, and mentoring programs to increase the number of women and minorities in the court system.

In addition, I support extensive training of judges and others in the judicial system to ensure sensitivity and respect for differences in race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and other backgrounds.