

**INQUIRER JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**MARTIN S. COLEMAN**

MUNICIPAL COURT

**1. Why are you qualified and well suited to serve as a Judge on the Court for which you are running?**

I have been litigating complex legal issues in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 20 years. Currently, I am partner at one of the largest law firms in Pennsylvania. I have handled matters that range from the Age and Employment Discrimination Act to the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act, before administrative agencies, state courts, and federal courts.

As a 20 year veteran of the courts, I have the knowledge and insight concerning the complex issues and interworkings of the legal system. I am a candidate for the Philadelphia Municipal Court. I have a strong background in administrative practice. In addition, I have a strong work ethic. Judges are the face of our legal system. I intend to bring my experience in litigation, work ethics, and experience as an administrator to the position.

I believe I am well suited for the position based on my personality. I appreciate that there are two sides to every story. I possess the compassion to listen with an open mind. I also have been successful in my career as a litigator in resolving issues between parties. I hope to bring these skills that are part of my personality to the bench.

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

I did not receive a rating of recommended from the Philadelphia Bar Association. As indicated, I have practiced as an attorney for twenty (20) years. Every time I switched firms it was at the request of a competitor willing to pay a higher salary. I have never been the subject of any type of disciplinary or ethical investigation. I have never been sued for malpractice.

I was shocked by the Philadelphia Bar Association's decision. For the last decade, I have worked at firms that are outside of the city of Philadelphia. Although, I have been a member in the past, at the time I submitted my questionnaire and writing samples, to the Philadelphia Bar Association in

December 2010, I was not a member. Based upon my impeccable record and qualifications, I have come to the conclusion that the decisions of the Philadelphia Bar Association, are more political than the public has been lead to believe.

- 3. If you are an incumbent judge, what is 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 Bench?**

The cornerstone of the judicial temperament is fairness. I will remain independent because I am independent. As an attorney, you are a hired advocate required to promote your client's interest within the bounds of the ethical cannons. As a Judge, I will always maintain my personal philosophy of "calling them like I see them".

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

The key is transparency. The recent events in Luzerne County have demonstrated the damage that rogue judges can do to the reputation of the judiciary. Hopefully, in the wake of this scandal, some good will result. Our judges must be independent but accountable. Ethical behavior can be promoted through the fair administration and the prosecution of the ethics laws. The actions of these judges have shaken the faith of the public.

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

As a Municipal Court judge, I will treat everyone who comes before me regardless of gender, race, ethnic background, and class, sexual orientation, or gender identity exactly the same. I always have, and I always will.