

Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

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Court of Common Pleas

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Questions

- 1) In addition to having tried hundreds of cases as a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney, I have been a leader in the bar as President of the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia and Co-chair of the Criminal Justice Section of the Bar Association. I also have a depth of personal life experience that would make me an asset to the our courts and our communities.
Born to teenage parents, my family has confronted many of the issues that face the parties in our courts; a father who struggled with a crack addiction, an autistic sibling, and a wife who has been battling breast cancer during the last year. These life experiences have formed in me a compassionate understanding for a litigant's need to be heard, respected, and treated fairly in the courts, and are important traits for a judge. The various challenges and tragedies in my personal life have brought about temperament and perspective. This is the perspective, patience, and even-handedness required of a judge.
- 2) I am supported by the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia an affiliate of the National Bar Association(not the Philadelphia Bar Association).
- 3) Remaining independent is essential to the proper administration of justice. One way to achieve this is to promote greater transparency into the justice process, not less. In other words, I would provide community leaders with opportunities to view the courts at work and express community concerns on an ongoing basis. Philadelphia's new zone court system represents a move in this direction.
- 4) The state's judiciary can continue to promote ethical behavior among judges and court staff by requiring periodic reporting by court staff and ethics reviews for judges. Ultimately, it is a judges responsibility to conduct his or herself in a manner that is proper under the rules.
- 5) The most important aspect of dealing with bias in the courtroom is the ability to recognize it and the bravery to confront it; as an attorney, I have practiced in the courts extensively, I also have the experience of having supported loved ones as they were parties in the justice system. My professional experience



and my personal experiences have given me a keen sense of observation for detecting these biases and the legal acumen to address them appropriately within the law.