

INQUIRER JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: **Anne Marie B. Coyle**

Judicial Post: Philadelphia Common Pleas Court

Political Party: Cross- Filed Democrat & Republican; Registered Republican

Campaign E-Mail & Website:

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Questions

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

I am a native Philadelphian with almost fifty years of life experiences and twenty-five years of legal expertise who has proudly dedicated much of my life to making a positive difference in our community. As the eldest of five children I have been inspired to excel by my parents. My mother immigrated to this country at the age of sixteen when she singularly traveled on a ship from Ireland. She met my dad who was born and raised in a large family in Southwest Philadelphia and working as a pipe fitter for Philadelphia Electric Company. Together they taught us the value of hard work, the power of independent thought and need for care of others.

My formal education began in St. Katherine Grade School and progressed to Archbishop Ryan High School, La Salle College (now University) and Villanova University School of Law. Beginning in my early teen years, I worked varied jobs as a waitress, bank teller, cafeteria worker, and shoe sales clerk to pay for my education.

During law school and immediately upon graduation in 1984, I learned by working as a legal intern and law clerk for two dedicated judges, the Honorable Joseph L. McGlynn, Jr. and the Honorable Edmund V. Ludwig. My initial public service was as a Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania focusing upon taxation cases. From April 1986 until January 2002 I was granted the honor of serving this city as a highly skilled Assistant District Attorney. During the sixteen years I have prosecuted all types of offenders before judges and juries too numerous to count. I learned to distinguish the dangerous criminals from people who made some bad judgments.

As a young A.D.A., I gained a first hand appreciation of the danger of firearms when a women open fired upon people in the City Hall Courtroom 196. Her angry act permanently physically and emotionally scarred the court officer who had been working a few feet from me when she was shot. I



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remained working as a prosecutor within the myriad of assignments to units including Homicide, Major Trials, Dangerous Dug Offender, Computer Crime, Juvenile Crime and Government Fraud.

Years later, I was promoted from the ranks to serve as an Assistant Chief of the Major Trials Unit and successfully supervised and trained several of our attorneys. My energies were also focused upon complicated jury cases involving arson, gun point robberies and shootings of police officers. I received training in arson detection and researched the psychological traits of sex and arson offenders to improve my abilities to prosecute complicated cases.

My experiences as a prosecutor could fill volumes. I vividly remember the quiet strength of a fifteen year old girl who faced her father and a filled courtroom to speak of her last memory of her mom ten years earlier. Her voice stilled us all when she told us how her dad brutally murdered her mother in rage while she pretended to be asleep in the other room.

I recall the profound sadness of a father who related how his son's killer bullied his son for years before that fateful night when he heard the killing shots just behind his Southwest Philadelphia home. His son had been eagerly hunted and executed because he refused to be robbed again of the little money he earned from his job at WaWa. I remember the pain in the faces of the family of the killer when they heard the jury sentence their relative to death. I learned much during these years.

I treasure that fact that I was blessed with a creative and quick thinking mind which at times made a huge difference. One unforgettable and humorous moment was when I dared to bring a drug sniffing dog into a courtroom to conduct an unorthodox test of over twenty thousand dollars supplied as potential bail money by "friends" of a defendant charged with major felony drug trafficking. I can still see the shock on everyone's faces when I offered to introduce this test with the German Shepard as evidence the money in the bag came from drug trade. An even bigger shock came when the dog not only reacted to the money in the bag but to the defense attorney's brief case. Unfortunately his fee in the briefcase came from the same friends of eh defendant. The Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania's budget improved that day and the defendant was not released.

In 2002, I realized that I needed to expand my knowledge beyond the criminal arena. I began working as an associate within a civil law firm in South Philadelphia where my major work has been in family law field. To a lesser extent I have covered estate planning and other civil areas. A large part of my job requires the exercise of extreme patience. I counsel people in who are battling all too common emotional life difficulties of divorce, custody and financial support. They often do not act rationally and ignore sound advice to their detriment. Sadly their battles cause harm to their children. Negotiating people through divorce is intense.

My past and current practice has brought me before judges and juries courts in Philadelphia, Delaware County, Montgomery County, Bucks County as well as Trenton, Camden and Cape May County New Jersey. My reputation is that of a tough- minded well respected and experienced advocate.

Finally, my greatest gift has been being a mom to my daughter who is light of my life. I cannot measure my success as a parent. I simply try my best. I trust that my life lessons will help me make sound decisions as a judge.

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Background Summary

Education:

St. Katherine Of Siena Grade School Class of 1972
Archbishop Ryan High School For Girls Class of 1977
La Salle College (now University)
La Salle In Europe-University Of Fribourg, Switzerland
Bachelor Of Arts: Political Science Degree 1981
Villanova University School Of Law
Juris Doctor Degree 1984

Legal Experience (Over 25 Years):

Assistant District Attorney For City Of Philadelphia: Criminal Prosecutor (15 yrs.)
Assistant Chief Major Trials Unit
Homicide Unit A.D.A.
Dangerous Drug Offenders Unit A.D.A.
Economic/Computer Crime Unit A.D.A.
Juvenile Unit A.D.A..
Major Trials Unit A.D.A.
Arson Prosecution A.D.A.
Marino, Conroy & Coyle, 301 Wharton Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147
Civil Practitioner: Concentration Family Law (8 years)
Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania Deputy Attorney General: Prosecutor (2 yrs.)
Taxation/Collections Unit
Law Clerk For The Honorable Edmund V. Ludwig, Former Judge Of
Court Of Common Pleas Bucks County
Legal Intern For The Honorable Joseph L. McGlynn, Jr. Judge Of The
United States District Court, E.D.PA.
Villanova University Law School Library Research Aide: Work Study

Non-Legal Employments (High School/College/Law School):

Bank teller
Shoe store sales clerk
Cashier & cafeteria food service
Waitress
Hostess
Research assistant
Assistant instructor-guitar

Community Volunteer Positions (Present/Past):

Nazareth Academy Parents' Association
President; Vice-President; Host Auction Fundraiser
Philadelphia Academy Charter School Board Of Trustee Member
Our Lady Of Calvary Church Lector
Our Lady Of Calvary School Assistant Swim Team Coach