

## Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

### Pennsylvania Primary 2011

- **Name:** Derrick Wayne Coker
- **Judicial post for which you are running:** Phila. Municipal Court
- **Current occupation / employer:** Sole Practitioner / Attorney-At-Law
- **Date of birth:** June 25, 1956
- **Political party:** Democratic
- **Campaign e-mail and Internet site:** Presently no Campaign website or e-mail.
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1. Why are you qualified and well-suited to serve as a judge on the court for which you are running? I've tried virtually every type of case that comes before the Municipal Court during my 27-yr. legal career. I'm known for my consistency, fairness, competence, dedication to the law and to public service as opposed to "political" association? If not, why not?
2. Did you receive a rating of "recommended" or higher from the state or local bar association? If not, why not? I entered the race 2/22. I appear before the Bar Assoc.'s Jud. Selec. & Ret'n Cmte on 4/15/11. service. I believe most judges & atty would agree.
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? I'm known for my integrity and for not swaying in the political winds. My duty as a jurist is to the law and to give ALL citizens equal justice under the law.
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 public and the media should do much more to keep abreast of judges' track records semi-annually at least, as opposed to waiting until election
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 took a National Origins discrimination case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Bias will not occur in my court. I looms to start asking Qs. Also, visit more trials to learn what occurs.