

Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Gary Gilman

Judicial post for which you are running: Bucks County Common Pleas Court

Political Party: Democratic/Republican (endorsed by both parties)

Campaign e-mail: ggilman@sgslegal.com website:
www.gilmanforjudge.com



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

I have been an attorney for 33 years, with a broad background of public and private sector experience in complex civil litigation, criminal law, family law, mediation, and arbitration. I am a husband and father of two teenagers. I am generally recognized by my peers as possessing excellent judicial demeanor, including fair-mindedness, patience, independence, and integrity. I have a long history of extensive involvement in coaching youth athletics and in community and charitable projects. Please refer to my campaign website at www.gilmanforjudge.com for more information.

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

Yes. Of members of the Bucks County Bar Association who expressed an opinion about my qualifications for judge in the April, 2009 plebiscite, 98% of my peers, attorneys from all areas of the county, rated me as highly recommended or recommended.

3. *If you are an aspiring judge, how do you plan to remain independent if elected to the bench?*

I will remain independent if elected to the Bench, primarily by deciding cases based upon the law and the facts, and by acting with integrity and with a sharp understanding of ethical considerations. I will not be swayed by bias or by outside influences. I have, and will continue to have, the courage to make rulings based upon 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 prevent discipline scandals of the type seen recently?*

Pennsylvania’s judiciary can and must prevent discipline scandals of the type seen recently, since it is imperative that citizens trust their judges and that judges earn and deserve that

trust. Judges and attorneys must be vigilant in policing themselves, in order to assure that people do not turn their backs when injustices are committed. When misconduct is proven, strong sanctions must be imposed to deter others so they resist temptation. Mandatory continuing education for judges, as to law and ethics, should be considered.

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?*

Certainly, various forms of bias can, on occasion, infect the justice system, since our justice system is based upon people, and all of us are less than perfect. In my courtroom, I will work very hard to ensure that bias has no role in sentencing decisions in criminal matters, in jury selection, and in the treatment of litigants, witnesses, and attorneys. The judge's instructions to the jury, both as the trial commences and at its conclusion, are very important in achieving this goal. The judge can set the tone for others by demonstrating the highest degree of fairness, impartiality, and bias-free conduct in the courtroom.