

# Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Name: **Gary S. Silow**

Running for: Common Pleas Court of  
Montgomery County

Political Party: Republican

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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 have devoted over 29 years vigorously representing my clients with an unparalleled work ethic, integrity, creativity and dignity. These transferable qualities are essential for judicial success. The diversity and complexity of the cases I have tried as a prosecutor, defense attorney and civil litigator will provide me with great flexibility in making an immediate impact, if elected. Additionally, I have been honored by the Court of Common Pleas with several appointments that have provided me with invaluable judicial experience conducting evidentiary hearings over a six-year period. They include Special Hearing Master in the Lower Merion Township Spot Assessment litigation, and Chairman of the Board of Viewers of Montgomery County. Most recently, I was appointed Claims Administrator for the Bridgeport Fire class action settlement and charged with allocating 22 million dollars to class members. Finally, I recognize that it is a privilege to serve the public.
- 2. Did you receive a rating of “recommended” or higher from the state or local bar association?** I was rated “Highly Recommended” by the Judiciary Committee of the Montgomery Bar Association.
- 3. If you are an incumbent judge, what’s a recent instance in which you acted to preserve your judicial independence?** Over the past 29 years I have established a reputation in the legal community for honesty and integrity. The Judiciary Committee of the Montgomery Bar Association rated me “Highly Recommended.” Accordingly, my peers are already familiar with my high ethical standards. That said, I will remain diligent in maintaining my independence by conducting the business of the court in accordance with the Rules of Judicial Conduct and by welcoming the experienced guidance from respected members of the bench. Finally, I have already had “practice” maintaining judicial independence from my six years as Chairman of the Board of Viewers of Montgomery County, Special Hearing Master in the Lower Merion Spot Assessments, and most recently, as Claims Administrator for the Bridgeport Fire class action settlement, appointments I was honored to receive from the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County.

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?** Honesty and integrity begin with the individual. It is difficult if not impossible to change a person's ethical makeup. Therefore, a first step in preventing judicial misconduct is to elect judges with the highest rating of their county bar association, based on a rigorous vetting process. Once elected, new judges should be assigned to experienced judges as their mentors for at least two years to provide substantive and ethical guidance. Finally, a pro-active President Judge should periodically monitor the bench for any signs of potential problems, and intervene when appropriate.

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 have personally recognized the tendency of mankind to acquiesce to the negative forces of bias. Accordingly, I believe it is an individual's duty to work to eliminate all forms of bias on a daily basis. I am already sensitized and committed to this ideal, and have a heightened awareness that will ensure that the administration of justice does not engender, transmit or support any form of bias, and I would make that clear to all who work in or enter the courtroom.