

Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Jeff Lindy

Office: Court of Common Pleas, Montgomery County

Party: Democrat (cross-filed for purposes of the Primary Election)

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1. Why are you well qualified and well suited on the court for which you're running?



Throughout my 23-year legal career, I have demonstrated a deep appreciation for and commitment to public service. I am drawn to the Bench as I have always been drawn to public service. I have spent my entire legal career in service to others and I am looking forward to continuing to work in the public interest as a Judge on the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas.

After graduating from law school, I served as a prosecutor on both the state and federal levels. In working as an Assistant District Attorney for D.A. Elizabeth Holtzman in Brooklyn, N.Y., and serving as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in addition to trying numerous cases, I adhered to the highest principles and standards of our profession. Among my achievements, the U.S. Attorney General personally presented me with the John Marshall Award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in recognition of my successful prosecution of a large, violent narcotics trafficking organization.

For the past 16 years, since leaving the public sector, I have practiced in federal and state courts engaging in both commercial litigation and criminal defense. I have tried cases before juries and judges, represented clients before federal and state grand juries, engaged in civil discovery and arbitrations, served as a neutral arbitrator in insurance disputes, and been both a large firm litigator and a small firm practitioner. On the appellate level, I have briefed and argued many cases before both state and federal appellate courts. Recently, I argued three cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, all of which resulted in the Court publishing precedential opinions.

Additionally, my criminal defense practice has provided me with the opportunity to continue to work in the public interest by accepting court-appointments and representing many clients on a pro bono or reduced-fee basis. In recognition of my commitment to assist those less fortunate, the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania appointed me as the Attorney Representative to the District's Criminal Justice Act ("CJA") Panel. The CJA Panel is comprised of over 200 attorneys who have been approved by the District Court to represent indigent criminal defendants. As the Eastern District's Attorney Representative to the Panel, I assist attorneys with substantive questions pertaining to their cases and administrative questions regarding obtaining funds for legal fees and experts; represent the interests of the Panel at national CJA conferences and in meetings with the District Court and Third Circuit; and serve as a liaison between the Panel and the Federal Defenders, the District Court and the Third Circuit. I have valued my service to the CJA Panel

and the Court, and have enjoyed working with public defenders, prosecutors, private sector attorneys and the Bench to improve the quality of indigent representation in our District as well as the conditions under which Panel attorneys provide that representation.

I also teach trial practice and procedure with the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (“NITA”) and the Office of Defender Services (“ODS”) of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (“AO”). ODS staff in Washington are charged with the task of providing educational services to federal public defender offices and CJA attorneys across the United States. ODS, in conjunction with CJA Panel Representatives like myself, also sets policy and establishes best practices on the national level for court-appointed counsel.

In addition to my professional qualifications, I have a demonstrated record of achievement and leadership in a wide variety of community activities. In Lower Merion Township, I served on the Bala Cynwyd Civic Association’s Board of Directors for seven years, and was president in 2003 and 2004. Currently, I sit on the Board of Directors of the Union Fire Association, which protects the communities of Merion and Bala Cynwyd. I am also a Director of the Education Foundation of Lower Merion, a non-profit organization which raises funds for educational programming in the Lower Merion Public School District.

Perhaps as important as the qualifications highlighted above, I believe that I also possess the personal qualities to be a fine judge – integrity, common sense, and an even temperament. As a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, I will hear disputes with an open mind, and endeavor to always treat attorneys and litigants with respect while acting decisively to render fair and prompt decisions under the law.

2. Did you receive a rating of recommended or higher from Bar?

Yes.

3. If you’re an aspiring judge, how do you plan to remain independent if elected?

Under the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, I will be duty bound to honor and follow the law of the land. The Code furthers requires Judges and judicial candidates to observe the highest standards of conduct in order to preserve the integrity and independence of the Judiciary, and to promote public confidence in the impartiality of our courts. I will do so faithfully and without hesitation, and will always conduct myself in a manner consistent with these standards. For example, a Judge must not hear a case when his or her impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to the fact that a substantial contributor may appear before that Judge. In such a situation, if a substantial contributor was to have a matter appear in my court or was in any way connected or related to a matter in my court, I would immediately recuse myself from the case.

4. How can the state’s judiciary prevent discipline scandals of the types seen recently?

Under the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, I will be duty bound to honor and follow the law of the land. Our Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits me from commenting more specifically on this legal issue or, indeed, on any issue or related judicial philosophy that may impact on a matter that could

come before me when I take the bench. This question references an ongoing investigation involving court personnel in Luzern County, Pennsylvania, that may involve federal and state law enforcement authorities and civil litigation. Therefore, I am not permitted to expound in further detail on the issue posed by this question. However, I believe that my answers to no. 3 above and no. 5 below describe my commitment to an honest, impartial judiciary that faithfully adheres to the highest ethical standards of our profession.

5. How will you work to keep your courtroom as bias free as possible?

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