

# Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** *LAWRENCE M. OTTER*

**Running for:** *Bucks County Common Pleas Court*

**Political Party:** *Democratic*

**Campaign e-mail and Website:**

[larryotter@hotmail.com](mailto:larryotter@hotmail.com) /

## Questions

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

I have been practicing law for 30 years. My legal experience includes criminal, civil, corporate in house, private practice and government service. I have a wide range of experience both locally and across the state. I firmly believe in the Bill of Rights in both the state and federal constitutions and would uphold those rights.



2. ***Did you receive a rating of “recommended” or higher from the state or local bar association? If not, why not?*** I did not participate in the Bucks County Bar Association selection process. My legal practice is beyond the county boundaries.

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 filed the lawsuit (Otter v. Cortes) that sought to add the Heckler vacancy to the ballot this year. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court recently affirmed the lower court decision. I am not part of the “deal” between the Bucks County political party bosses which seeks to shut out all competition for the judicial slots. I fully intend to stay on the ballot regardless of the outcome of my lawsuit over the fourth vacancy. If elected I will also change my party registration to independent for the term of my office.

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?*** Bucks County is in the thrall of the Republican Party for as long as anyone can remember. Luzerne County is controlled by the Democratic Party. One party rule invariably leads to abuse of power. The Luzerne County scandal is a total failure of the system. The District Attorney looked the other way. The Public Defender did nothing to stop the obvious abuse. The local bar gave up. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ignored the problem until the United States Attorney acted. I would not hesitate to bring to the attention of federal law enforcement any problems that would occur in the Court system if I am elected. I had some professional involvement with Judge Conahan’s court and reported the problems to state law enforcement who unfortunately did not act.

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 simply would not tolerate

any form of gender, ethnic, class or other forms of bias in my courtroom if I am elected. If I became aware of issues of that nature I would bring it out into the open in any meeting of the county judges.

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## Resume

LAWRENCE M. OTTER, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Doylestown, PA (2003-present)

Solo practitioner with emphasis on Constitutional law, election matters and First Amendment issues in state and Federal courts; Administrative agency practice in health care regulatory issues; general business matters and commercial litigation in state and Federal courts.

UPMC HEALTH PLAN, Pittsburgh, PA (2002- 2003)

Director- Government Relations. Handle regulatory and legislative affairs for major Western Pennsylvania health insurer. Manage litigation and transactional matters. Successfully directed license application for new insurance company through regulatory bodies in less than six months resulting in elimination of state 2% premium tax.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL, Harrisburg, PA (1999-2002)

Senior Deputy Attorney General. Created and organized Health Care Unit. Advised Attorney General on health care legislation and regulation. Recovered over \$3,000,000 in insurance payments to reimburse health care providers. Increased unit business by 36% and revenue recovery 42%.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, Harrisburg, PA (1994-1999)

Assistant General Counsel. Practice included licensing and regulation of hospitals, nursing homes and managed care organizations; administrative, trial and appellate litigation and labor relations. Responsible for policy and legislative analysis for Deputy Secretaries of Health. Advisor to Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General on health care anti-trust and fraud issues. Developed nationally recognized health outreach program. Successfully litigated case of first impression involving federal/state long term care regulation. Member of Interstate Task Force on Managed Care Oversight and U.S. Department of Justice Operation Restore Trust Hospital Task Force.

LAW OFFICE OF NATHANIEL P. D'AMICO, Norristown, PA (1993-1994)

Trial Attorney. Trial practice with emphasis on liability and first and third party insurance coverage issues.

GALFAND, BERGER, LURIE & MARCH, Philadelphia, PA (1987-1993)

Senior Trial Attorney. Counsel in negligence, products liability, property damage, environmental, insurance coverage and First Amendment cases.

HARLEYSVILLE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, Harleysville, PA (1983-1987)

Assistant Litigation Counsel. Managed claims and corporate litigation. Developed and implemented cost saving litigation management programs. Represented carrier in *Wolgemuth v. Harleysville*, 370 Pa. Super. 125, 535, A.2d 1145, allocatur denied, 551 A.2d 216.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, Philadelphia, PA (1981-1982)

Law clerk to Judge Paul Ribner, Chief Homicide Judge. Prepared opinions and memoranda in homicide cases.

UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, Elizabeth, NJ (1979-1981)  
Criminal Justice Specialist (Trial Attorney). Represented the State of New Jersey in all criminal proceedings in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

BAR ADMISSIONS: Pennsylvania, U. S. District Courts (ED, MD and WD-PA, NJ and MN) and U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

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#### PRESENTATIONS:

Columnist, Politicspa.com (2005 to date)

Faculty, Election and Campaign Finance Law in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Harrisburg and Philadelphia (2005). (Published by PBI, Harrisburg, PA).

Panelist, Health Care Forum, Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, Harrisburg PA (2001).

Panelist, Forth Annual Health Care Symposium, Central Penn Business Journal, Harrisburg, PA (2001).

Treatment Delayed, Is Treatment Denied, Is Justice Denied, National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws, Washington, D. C. (2001).

Government Regulatory and Enforcement Considerations, Internet Health Care Issues Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (Published by Lorman Business Center, Eau Claire, WI, 2001).

Grievance and Appeals Procedures in the Managed Care World, PA Recovery Organization Alliance Conference, Harrisburg, PA (2000).

Health Care with a Badge-The Attorney General's Health Care Unit, Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA (2000)

Implications of Act 169 on Health Care Facilities, Temple University Institute on Aging, (various locations throughout Pennsylvania, 1999).

Take the Offensive: A Litigator's Approach to Nursing Home Regulation, Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies National Conference, St. Louis, MO (1998) (Published by AHFSA, Montgomery, AL).

Beverly, Briarcliff & Beyond: A Millennial Review of Federal and State Long Term Care Health Policy, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Mechanicsburg, PA (1998) (Published by PBI, Harrisburg, PA).

Health Care Facilities Reporting Requirements, Institute on Aging, sponsored by Temple University, Penn State University & University of Pittsburgh (Various locations throughout Pennsylvania, 1998).

A Legislative, Judicial and Executive Review of Health Policy Initiatives, Pennsylvania Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Annual Meeting, Hershey, PA (1998).

Current Pennsylvania Regulatory and Legal Issues Relating to Long Term care, DOH Division of Nursing Care Facilities, various locations (1997).

Information Sharing on Managed Care Entities, Mid-Atlantic Working Group on Managed Care Oversight, Harrisburg, PA (1997).

Regulatory Oversight of Integrated Delivery Systems In Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Business Law Institute II, Philadelphia (1996).

Reimbursement of Services provided in the Emergency Room after Act 112, Hospital Association of Pennsylvania, Valley Forge and Western Council of Pennsylvania Hospitals, Warrendale (1996)

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#### EDUCATION:

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW  
J. D.-1979  
HONORS: Dean's List

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY  
M. A.-1971-Political Science  
HONORS: Research Assistantship

MOUNT ST.MARY'S COLLEGE (MD)  
B. S. (Cum Laude) –1970 Social Science/History  
HONORS: Dean's List

#### AWARDS:

Mickey Mantle Foundation, (1996)  
Second American to receive a foundation citation for promotion of organ donor awareness.

Marine Corps League, (2004)  
Pro bono award

#### INTERESTS:

Recognized authority on late 20th Century American political memorabilia. Wrote monthly column for The Political Collector (1997 -2008), a national circulation trade paper, and opinion column for Politicspa.com, a daily internet news site. Appeared on CBS, WB Network and MTV news shows during the 2000 political conventions.

