

# Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Name: **Linda Cartisano**

Judicial post for which you are running:  
Common Pleas Court, 32nd District, Delaware  
County

Political Party: Republican and Democrat  
(crossfiled)

Campaign e-mail and website:  
LindaCartisano@aol.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 the temperament, experience and qualifications to be a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County.

I have served as a Custody Conciliator for the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, where I presided at hearings, took testimony, heard argument and adjudicated issues concerning the custody of children. This is an area of law where parents and guardians are emotional, angry and often fighting for control. I was able to persuade parents to listen to one another, and make the right decision in the best interest of their children. In the few cases where I was not able to accomplish a settlement by the parties, I listened, evaluated and made a decision. I gained a reputation as even tempered, fair and impartial among the members of the Family Law Bar.

I have practiced law for over thirty years, with an emphasis in municipal, domestic, zoning, real estate and civil litigation. I am the Solicitor for the City of Chester, the Darby Creek Joint Authority, the Borough of Norwood Zoning Hearing Board, and the Chester Township Zoning Hearing Board. I am the past Solicitor for the Borough of Upland and the Chester Redevelopment Authority, and a former Assistant Solicitor for the County of Delaware. As a lawyer, I have experience in state and federal courts, as well as before administrative and quasi judicial bodies.

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

The Delaware County Bar Association rating process is scheduled to be completed by Friday, April 24th.



**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?**

As an aspiring judge, I will be independent. All who appear in the courtroom will have the same access, respect and attention. I will base all decisions on the law and facts as presented. I have followed and used these same principles throughout my legal career. While working in the legal office for the City of Chester for over thirty years, I have made many good friends who work in various offices throughout the City. However as City Solicitor, I must sometimes make decisions that affect these same friends and colleagues. I have learned to make those decisions based on the law and the facts as presented, without being influenced by the personalities of those I work with or the impact those decisions will have on their situations. As a judge, I will draw on this training to remain independent in my decisions on the bench.

**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?**

The judges that I have had the pleasure to practice in front of in the Delaware County Courts have been above reproach in all matters. One of the reasons may be the strong bond between the Bench and Bar in our county. The two entities work closely together in all matters that affect lawyers and judges. This promotes a mutual respect and an openness in handling issues, and allows the bar access to the bench if at any time any concern is raised as to a judge's conduct. Therefore, one way would be to promote this close interaction in other counties throughout the Commonwealth.

In addition, each and every complaint received concerning a judge should be investigated by the county bench and then, if warranted, by the state judiciary. More information and instruction on the judicial canons would keep the attention of the judiciary focused in the areas of concern.

**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 had the good fortune to grow up, live and work in the City of Chester, a city of racial and ethnic diversity with residents of all income levels. This has given me a perspective and history of dealing with people that allows me to see past the external appearance and deal with the person underneath. This background will provide an important foundation upon which I will be able to draw when in the courtroom.

In addition, as previously stated, I will make decisions from the bench based solely on the law and facts presented in the court of law.