

## **Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**

**MARVIN L. WILLIAMS**

### **MUNICIPAL COURT**

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

I have a very diverse and unique background which will enable me to handle all types of matters that come before me as a Municipal Court Judge. I graduated from Temple University with a B.B.A. in accounting (cum laude); Temple University Law School with a Juris Doctor Degree and a Masters of Law Degree (L.L.M.) in Taxation from Villanova University School of Law. I am a Certified Public Accountant licensed in Pennsylvania (also a Forensic Accountant). I am admitted to the Pennsylvania, Federal (Eastern District of Pennsylvania) and United States Tax Court.

Also, I am a former Deputy Sheriff Officer in Philadelphia County. I am a veteran of the United States Air Force (U.S.A.F.) from which I was honorably discharged. Moreover, while in the U.S.A.F., I attended the Air Force Non Commissioned Officer Leadership School (NCOLES) where I received the highest academic awards.

A significant number of the problems handled in Municipal Court are problems centering on community and I have been a community activist for over 17 years where I serve and have served on many non-profit Boards.

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

Process not yet completed. Should be completed by the end of April 2011.

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?*

A judge should keep an open mind and never let their personal prejudices affect the outcome of a matter. A jurist should recuse him or herself when there is any bias, prejudice or where the individual jurist cannot follow the law or where there is a conflict of interest in fact or appearance. The recusal in a court matter is necessary to uphold the public trust and confidence in the judiciary.

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 promote ethical behavior among judges and staff?*

Lead by example. A judge should refrain from involvement in any and all matters that may come before him/her in court. A judge should keep an open mind and never let their personal prejudices affect the outcome of a matter.

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 do not believe that gender, racial, ethnic, class or other forms of bias should have any influence on the outcome of a matter in the justice system. However, my courtroom will be operated in a manner to ensure that all individuals will understand and be assured that they and the matter that is in litigation will be dealt with fairly and objectively.