

Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Name: **Pat Dugan**

Running for: Municipal Judge

Political Party: Democrat

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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 was appointed to the Philadelphia Municipal Bench in August 2007. I have presided well over 10,000 cases, with the majority of them being Criminal Preliminary Hearings. Not only am I qualified and well suited based on my education, (Saint Joseph's Prep, Rutgers- Camden Law School), legal experience (Criminal Defense, Family, Child Advocacy, Military Law) and well rounded background (Paratrooper, Infantryman, Bartender, Bronze Star, Father, Combat Veteran, Life-long Philadelphian, first one in family to graduate from college, Philly Mag's Philadelphian of the Year 2004), I am actually a well respected Judge today. There is NO GUESSING as to what kind of judge I am. My record speaks for itself. I ask you to ask others. Attorneys, judges, sheriffs, court clerks, police etc ... you ask them about me. I will stand on what they say.
- 2. Did you receive a rating of "recommended" or higher from the state or local bar association?**
Yes.
- 3. If you are an incumbent judge, what's a recent instance in which you acted to preserve your judicial independence?** As a judge who presides in the homicide preliminary room fairly often, I do not to follow the media accounts of the murders which occur in Philadelphia as the odds are pretty good that I will preside over that matter.
- 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 only way to do away with scandals 100% is to take the human element out of it, which is impossible. Humans are infallible and judges are included. However, the responsibility of a judge is the highest that a human can hold. We interpret the law and in effect decide the fate of our fellow humans. We must continue to educate our bench on our ethical obligations and we must also be monitored more closely. Some of the recent scandals were perpetrated "out in the open" and people were reporting the scandalous activity, yet they were ignored. We all must listen more closely when allegations are made against the bench.
- 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?** These forms of bias are prevalent in all aspects of our society, and of course they are present in the courtroom. I as the judge must strive to make it bias-free and use my power to do so. I do not tolerate disrespect to anyone in my courtroom. I try to the best of ability to keep bias from entering into a case by demanding respect be given to all and by all.

