Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Name: **Robert O. Baldi**

Running for: Bucks County Common Pleas Court

Political Party: Republican and Democrat (Cross-filed)

Campaign e-mail and Website: rbaldi@baldilaw.com

Questions:

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

In the past thirty three years, as both a plaintiff's and a defense attorney, I have handled every type of litigation and problem that comes before a Judge sitting in the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas; this includes major civil litigation, criminal matters, family law matters, and appeals from administrative agencies, including zoning matters and employment disputes. For the past twenty years, I also have been one of the most frequently requested neutral arbitrators for resolving such matters as contract disputes, personal injury claims, and construction litigation. In addition to my practice, I have volunteered extensive time with the Bucks County Bar Association as well as many charitable organizations, including A Woman's Place, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and VITA, an organization that provides adult literacy training.

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

Yes, 85% of all of the voters in the Bucks County Bar Association Plebiscite rated me "Highly Recommended" or "Recommended" (of the voters who had an opinion, 95% voted me "Highly Recommended" or "Recommended". These results were announced on April 8, 2009, and published in The Intelligencer on April 10, 2009.

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 will remain independent by conducting myself in the same way that I have conducted myself for the last thirty three years. In my role as neutral arbitrator, I regularly render decisions that disappoint one side or the other, however, attorneys who have been disappointed with the outcome of their cases continue to request my services, knowing my decisions are based on the facts of the case and appropriate law, and not upon acquaintance or connections.

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 for the State's Judiciary to prevent scandal is by accepting the obligation and acting on its duty to report any instance of misconduct that comes to its attention. To remain silent is to condone the misconduct.

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?**

Court rooms are microcosms of diversity. Ensuring a bias-free system and a just verdict requires strong leadership; as a sitting Judge I will set an example by treating everyone equally and with respect, regardless of inherent differences or the roles of participants in the proceeding. It also will be my responsibility to provide a safe environment for all by insisting participants treat each other with civility throughout the proceedings to the verdict or sentencing.

Robert O. Baldi, Esquire

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Beth Schecter, Legal Assistant to

Robert O. Baldi, Esquire

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the sender immediately.