

Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Name: **Robert Coleman**

Judicial post for which you are running:
Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas

Political Party: Democrat

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

I have 26 years of extensive litigation experience and have handled all manner of cases ranging from the American with Disabilities Act through and including Workers Compensation matters. I have attained an AV rating with Martindale and Hubbell and I am intimately familiar with court room procedures and tactics. I know I can handle a Court room and have a sincere desire to serve the public. I have tried numerous jury trials in my career and I would like to think that I bring to the bench the best attributes of each and every Judge I have had the opportunity to appear before. I believe that I will make a positive difference on the bench because I am a fair and impartial individual with the desire, ability and experience to handle the position. The Philadelphia Bar Association has found me qualified for the Court of Common Pleas and I have the endorsement of the Democratic Party and several labor unions including the AFL-CIO.



2. Did you receive a rating of “recommended” or higher from the state or local bar association? If not, why not? Yes, I was found qualified in 2007 and again in 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? N/A

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 Judiciary needs to be above reproach and trusted by the public at large. Recent events concerning the incarceration of children for financial gain and Judges conspiring with the manufacturers of monitoring bracelets for profit have tarnished the image of Judges State wide and can not be tolerated. The judiciary must be more proactive in preventing such scandals in the future. It appears inconceivable that such schemes could be perpetrated without raising the suspicion of fellow jurists. Effective self policing is needed and harsh sentences need to be doled out to those few who would sell there office and compromise the integrity of the office

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? Bias in any form can not be tolerated in any court room. I would like to believe that when elected I would hire a staff that

reflects this belief. Additionally, I believe that education is the best way to eliminate bias and would encourage the use of seminars and literature to foster and nurture an unbiased court room. Every individual who enters a court room, regardless of the reason, is entitled to be treated fairly and with respect. Any deviation from this fundamental right can not and should not be tolerated.