

# Inquirer Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Name: **Temp Smith**

Judicial post: **Judge of the Superior Court**

Political Party: **Republican**

Website: [www.tempsmith.com](http://www.tempsmith.com)



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

**I am qualified and well suited to serve as a judge on the Superior Court because of my 32 years of experience in civil litigation, during which time I have represented briefed and argued 90 cases in the Superior, Commonwealth and Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania.**

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

**I received a rating of “Recommended” from the Pennsylvania Bar Association and a rating of “Highly Recommended” from the Allegheny County Bar Association.**

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 plan to avoid all contact with litigants outside of the courtroom, to avoid membership in groups which are consistently involved in litigation that might appear before the Court and to recuse myself whenever doing so would be called for by the Code of Judicial Conduct.**

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?

**Unfortunately, while you can teach rules, you cannot teach someone to be honest. The best that can be done is to remove the temptation from those who are not inherently honest. This can be done by increase transparency regarding judicial investments in businesses that present potential conflicts of interest and by closer monitoring the actions of the judiciary by the Supreme Court.**

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 will work to provide a “level playing field” for all parties before me and will do so by making every possible effort not to consider their gender, racial or ethnic characteristics when deciding their cases. I do not believe that we have more than one “class” of persons in the United States.**

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## Bio

### Templeton Smith, Jr.

Temp Smith is an attorney and shareholder with the Pittsburgh Pennsylvania law firm of Thomson, Rhodes & Cowie, P.C. He has a breadth of experience in administrative and appellate law and litigation. Over the past 17 years, his practice in these areas has involved zoning and land use, certificate of need determinations, taxation, medical malpractice, products liability and commercial contract disputes. In addition, he counsels clients on issues involving Medicare/Medicaid Anti-Fraud and Anti-Kickback legislation and regulations and the Equity in Patient Referrals Act.

Prior to joining Thomson, Rhodes & Cowie, P.C. in 1991, Mr. Smith practiced for 14 years with the Pittsburgh law firm of Rose, Schmidt, Hasley and DiSalle, spending the last 8 of those years as a partner in that firm's litigation department.

Mr. Smith's administrative law experience includes practice before health systems agencies, the Commonwealth Department of Health, the Commonwealth Board of Finance and Revenue, and the Department of Revenue Board of Appeals, as well as local zoning hearing boards and other local government agencies.

A graduate of Washington & Lee University and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Mr. Smith maintains an active practice before all of Pennsylvania's appellate level courts as well as the Federal Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.