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 (NCOLS) 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.