



PENNSYLVANIANS  
FOR MODERN COURTS

# **League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania- Citizen Education Fund**

**NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE**

**2017 Municipal Primary Election May 16, 2017**

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*(information received from candidates by April 14, 2017)*

**Polls open 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.**

*This Voters Guide may be taken into the voting booth.*

## **FOR ELECTION INFORMATION**

Contact your county Board of Elections. The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania also provides election information. CALL 717-234-1576.

## **ABOUT THIS GUIDE**

The material in this Guide was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund. This material may not be altered or reprinted without the permission of the League. Each candidate's reply has been printed as submitted, except to use standard abbreviations and by editing from the bottom when a candidate's reply exceeded the word limit. The candidates listed are those whose names appear on the ballot as of April 14, 2017. They are listed according to their ballot order. Additional information about judicial candidates and voter information including "Polling Place Lookup" can be found by going to [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) and typing in your address and zip code.

## **PURPOSE AND POLICY OF THE LEAGUE**

The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan: it neither supports nor opposes any political parties or candidates. Nothing in this guide should be construed as an endorsement of any candidate by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund.

## **ABSENTEE VOTING**

Registered voters who are ill, disabled, or will be absent from the municipality on Election Day may vote by absentee ballot. Completed applications for civilian absentee ballots must be received by the county Board of Elections by 5 P.M., Tuesday, May 9, 2017. Completed civilian absentee ballots must be received back at the Board of Elections by 5 P.M. on Friday, May 12, 2017. If an emergency arises (unexpected illness or business trip) after the Tuesday application deadline, call your county Board of Elections for information on emergency absentee voting. Proof of emergency may be required. An emergency application and ballot can be obtained and voted by 5 P.M. on Friday, May 12, 2017. Any disabled voter having questions regarding the accessibility of a polling place should consult the county Board of Elections.

## **WRITE-IN VOTING**

Information for write-in voting will be available at the polling place.

## **ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS**

If your right to vote is challenged at the polls on Election Day and the problem cannot be resolved at the polling place, the judge of elections at the polling place should telephone the county Board of Elections. The problem could be resolved by phone if your name appears on the county records. If it does not and you want to try to resolve the problem, then you can go in person to the county Board of Elections where a judge from the Court of Common Pleas will be on duty to resolve election problems. Alternatively you can ask for and vote by provisional ballot. If it is later determined that you were eligible to vote your ballot will be counted. You will be given instructions on how to determine if your vote was counted.

## **IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW VOTERS**

If you are a new voter or if you are voting at a polling place for the first time then you must bring your voter ID card or a photo ID such as a driver's license, student ID or some other form of Federal or State government issued ID. Some forms of non-photo ID are also acceptable such as a firearm permit, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government check. If you do not have any acceptable ID then you must be allowed to vote by provisional ballot.

## **ON-LINE VOTERS GUIDE**

The Voters Guide and other useful information for voters can be found on the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania homepage: [www.palwv.org](http://www.palwv.org)

**Judicial elections** occur in odd-numbered years. Justices and judges may serve an unlimited number of terms until they reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 and are retained or re-elected by the voters. Vacancies that exist before an election may be filled by gubernatorial appointment until an election is held. These selections are subject to Senate confirmation.

### **10 Year Term**

Appellate court jurists  
Courts of Common Pleas judges

### **6 Year Term**

Magisterial district judges  
Philadelphia Municipal Courts judges

## **JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT**

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the Commonwealth and the oldest appellate court in the nation. The Supreme Court's administrative powers and jurisdictional responsibilities are vested with the seven-member court by the Pennsylvania State Constitution and a collection of statutes known as the Judicial Code. Administratively, the courts within the Unified Judicial System are largely responsible for organizing their own staff and dockets; however, the Supreme Court has several committees and boards responsible for writing and enforcing rules for judges, attorneys, and litigants to ensure an efficient and fair judicial review. Annually, the seven justices receive over 3,000 requests for appellate review. **Term: 10 years—Salary \$206,054—Vote for not more than 1**

### **Democratic**

**Dwayne Woodruff, McCandless – Allegheny**  
*Candidate did not respond.*

### **Republican**

**Sally Mundy, Tioga – Tioga**  
*Candidate did not respond.*

## **JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT**

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Superior Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, which was established in 1895, reviews most of the civil and criminal cases that are appealed from the Courts of Common Pleas in the Commonwealth's 67 counties. The Superior Court consists of 15 judges who serve 10-year terms. The president judge of Superior Court is elected to a five-year term by his or her colleagues. A huge volume of appeals flow to Superior Court from the trial courts. Generally, appeals are heard by panels of three judges sitting in Philadelphia, Harrisburg or Pittsburgh. The court often is the final arbiter of legal disputes. Although the Supreme Court may grant a petition for review of a Superior Court decision, most such petitions are denied and the ruling of the Superior Court stands.

**Term: 10 years—Salary: \$191,422 (Vote for 4)**

### **Democratic**

**Carolyn Nichols, Philadelphia, PA—Philadelphia**  
*Candidate did not respond.*

**Geoff Moulton, Upper Dublin - Montgomery**



**Campaign email:** Geoff@judgemoulton.com

**Campaign phone:** 215-817-3312

**Campaign website:**

**Campaign Facebook:** [Facebook.com/judgemoulton](https://www.facebook.com/judgemoulton)

**Campaign Twitter:** @JudgeMoulton

**Occupation:** Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania

**Education:** B.A. Amherst College; J.D. Columbia University School of Law

**Qualifications:** The Judicial Evaluation Comm'n of the Pennsylvania Bar Association concluded: "This commission believes that the candidate possesses the highest combination of legal ability, experience, integrity and

temperament and, therefore, highly recommends his candidacy for the Pennsylvania Superior Court."

### **Answer to Questions:**

#### ***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

Beyond the baseline requirements of professional competence, integrity, and appropriate judicial temperament, the most important qualification is a commitment to ensuring that every participant in the judicial system is treated fairly and with dignity and respect.

#### ***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

Judges should recuse themselves when their impartiality might reasonably be questioned. In the context of the current judicial campaign, I have recused myself in situations where lawyers providing significant support to my campaign, or members of their firms, represent clients in our court.

#### ***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

I believe deeply in our civil justice system, but it is far from perfect, in large part because too many litigants do not have the resources to afford legal representation in important classes of cases where such representation is not provided by the state. As a result, I have supported and will continue to support efforts to find ways to bridge that gap, including the "Civil Gideon" movement.

**Maria McLaughlin, Philadelphia, PA—Philadelphia**  
**Campaign email:** info@mclaughlin4superiorcourt.com



**Campaign phone:** 215-605-3114  
**Campaign Facebook:** JudgeMclaughlin4SuperiorCourt  
**Campaign Twitter:** honmmclaughlin  
**Occupation:** Judge Court of Common Pleas  
**Education:** JD

**Qualifications:** As a Judge in the largest Judicial district in our Commonwealth, I've had the opportunity to issue thousands of rulings. I have been appealed only 5 times and have never had a decision overturned. I believe this uniquely qualifies me for the Superior Court.

**Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

It is most important for a jurist to be objective because parties must have confidence that their case will be heard fairly and impartially.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

I have recused myself in a criminal matter after hearing argument on a bail reduction motion. It would be inappropriate for me to hear the underlying case because information was revealed during this motion that would be prejudicial to the defendant in his underlying case.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

As a sitting Judge I always ensure that all parties are treated fairly and equally regardless of the issue before the Court. I also believe it is my duty as a Judge to educate the public and is the reason I take part in many community based organizations. I believe I should be a good example both on and off the bench

**Debbie Kunselman, Center Township - Beaver**



**Campaign email:** [judgetebbieforsuperiorcourt@gmail.com](mailto:judgetebbieforsuperiorcourt@gmail.com)

**Campaign phone:** 215-605-3114

**Campaign Facebook:** Deborah Kunselman

**Campaign Twitter:** @JudgeKunselman

**Occupation:** Judge

**Education:** J.D., University of Notre Dame Law School, cum laude  
B.A., Penn State University, with Honors and with High Distinction

**Qualifications:** 12 years experience as a trial court judge in Beaver County: presided over family, juvenile and civil matters; 13 years experience as an attorney: represented clients in personal injury, family and employment cases; 8 years as Chief County Solicitor for Beaver County; "Highly Recommended" by the Bar.

**Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

Integrity. If you cannot trust a judge to do the right thing, and follow the law, then who can you trust?

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

I have and would recuse in cases involving family members, close friends, or former clients. I have also recused in matters involving my campaign officers. I would also recuse in other cases as required by the PA Code of Judicial Conduct, Rule 2.11.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

As a judge, on the bench, I can treat self-represented litigants with respect, so they are not intimidated by the legal system. Off the bench, I can speak at seminars and to the general public about the need for all people to have access to a lawyer to protect their legal rights. I can also advocate for state funding for our public defenders. (Pennsylvania is one of only two states that does not provide any state funding to the public defenders' office.)

**William Caye, South Fayette - Allegheny**



**Campaign email:** [info@williamcaye.com](mailto:info@williamcaye.com)

**Campaign phone:**

**Campaign Facebook:** @billcaye4pasuperiorcourtjudge (Bill Caye 4 PA Superior Court Judge)

**Campaign Twitter:** @billyadam0905 (LinkedIn William F. Caye II)

**Occupation:** Statewide Criminal and Juvenile Defense Trial Attorney

**Education:** Duquesne University School of Law JD, front line editor Juris;  
Duquesne University Liberal Arts BA, Magna cum laude

**Qualifications:** I am an accomplished trial attorney with 24 years of extensive private and public sector litigation, jury / nonjury trials and motions practice experience, having presented and/or defended thousands of disputes in magistrate courts and in nearly each division of the Common Pleas Court system. I was a former Assistant DA in Allegheny county and a Senior Deputy Attorney General criminal prosecutor with numerous winning verdicts in major felony actions in elder, sex, child, and domestic abuse matters across our state. I also previously performed judicial law clerk duties such as: responsive legal research, writing, and advising judges in federal, state, and county posts with exceptional contributions to published opinions and orders, and unpublished memoranda.

**Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

Integrity is the most important quality in a jurist because the litigants and parties deserve an impartial adjudication of their claims or defenses.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

Recusal is required when the impartiality of the fact finder may be reasonably called into question due to a conflict of interest, bias or any other factor that may create the appearance of impropriety or cast doubt on the integrity of the jurist.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

The rules of judicial conduct permit judges to engage in educational programs, engage in proactive community activities to enhance the perception of the bench and promote equal justice. On the bench, in chambers, and professional settings, judges must be respectful, courteous, kind and sensitive to the individuals that have business before the Courts. Judges must be diligent public stewards of the authority vested in them by the people.

**Republican**

**Emil Giordano, Hanover Township - Northampton**



**Campaign email:** giordanoforjudge@gmail.com

**Campaign phone:** 717-234-5424

**Campaign Facebook:** @judgegiordano

**Campaign Twitter:**

**Occupation:** Judge of the Court of Common Pleas

**Education:** J.D. Villanova Law School, B.A. Moravian College

**Qualifications:** I have received a "Highly Recommended" rating from the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

**Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

Experience. The Pennsylvania Bar Association cited my "broad experience as a practicing attorney, proven record of judicial leadership, high ethical standards and dedication to the legal profession" as they awarded me a "highly recommended" rating. I believe those are important qualities that will serve me well on the Superior Court.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

I believe I have a proven record of conducting myself in a highly ethical manner as it relates to this issue.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

The biggest issue that needs to be addressed in the courts is the crisis of public confidence our judiciary faces. Through scandal and ethics lapses, the courts are viewed negatively by too many people. That image will only be changed by electing qualified, ethical judges who will comport themselves in an appropriate manner when in office.

**Craig Stedman, Manheim Township - Lancaster**



**Campaign email:** craigstedman17@gmail.com

**Campaign phone:** 717-234-5424

**Campaign Facebook:** @stedmanforjudge

**Campaign Twitter:****Occupation:** Lancaster District Attorney**Education:** B.A. History - University of Delaware; J.D. Penn State Dickinson School of Law**Qualifications:** The Pennsylvania Bar Association awarded me a "Highly Recommended" rating.**Answer to Questions:*****What is the most important quality in a judge?***

Experience - Criminal cases make up the great majority of the cases which are pending before the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. I will bring extensive criminal law knowledge and experience to the bench and thus the majority of cases. This is particularly important because there is very little combined prosecutorial experience in the Superior Court and not one who ever served as an elected District Attorney.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?******As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

I want to become a part of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania to serve the citizens of this state and apply the law fairly and with equal justice for everyone. The concepts of fairness and equal justice are not just words to me and I am committed to interpreting the law with integrity, honor, and common sense. I am committed to making this state a better place for everyone by serving with character, respect, intelligence, and wisdom.

**Wade A. Kagarise, Borough of Hollidaysburg - Blair****Campaign email:** info@judgekagarise.com**Campaign phone:** 717-234-5424**Campaign Facebook:** Kagarise for Superior Court**Campaign Twitter:****Occupation:** Court of Common Pleas Judge and Adjunct Professor**Education:** B.A. Indiana University of Pennsylvania, J.D. Widener University School of Law**Qualifications:** Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 15 years experience as a criminal prosecutor (the last eight as Chief Deputy) handling all types of criminal

cases including murder cases, twelve years experience handling civil, family, and labor law. Adjunct Professor, Infantry Veteran of US Army Reserves..

**Answer to Questions:*****What is the most important quality in a judge?***

I believe experience and temperament are equally important. Judges should have broad based legal experience and should treat those who appear before them with fairness and dignity.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

Consistent with the Judicial Cannons, any Judge should recuse themselves with they are unable to decide a matter fairly and impartially or where their fairness or impartiality could reasonably be called into question.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

By working to improve the justice system for all Pennsylvanians. I have and will continue to work towards this goal. My experience on appointed committees has provided a venue to work on improvements. I also believe my experience as an adjunct professor has provided me the opportunity to have an impact on future generations of legal professionals.

**Mary Murray, Moon Township - Allegheny****Campaign email:** judgemarymurraycommittee@gmail.com**Campaign phone:** 412-264-0440**Campaign Facebook:** Judge Mary P. Murray Committee for PA Superior Court**Campaign Twitter:****Occupation:** Magisterial District Judge & Attorney**Education:** Duquesne University, BS/BA 1992, MBA 1995, JD 1996**Qualifications:** As Magisterial District Judge for over 13 years and as an attorney for over 20, I have heard cases and practiced law in the areas that come before the Superior Court. In my tenure as a Magisterial District Judge, I have handled over

70,000 cases which make me aware of the concerns of PA citizens.

**Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

The most important quality in a jurist is to listen to the evidence presented at a hearing and to apply the law in a fair and impartial manner. As a jurist giving every citizen their day in Court and being fair and impartial is the only way democracy can continue to flourish in our county.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

I have recused myself from cases where police officers who appear regularly in front of me were either victims or defendants. I have also asked for a change in venue on cases where someone has run against me in a recent campaign or if someone called me at my home and tried to influence my decision on a case.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

On the bench, I make sure that my staff provides litigates information on their rights to appeal and phone numbers for legal representation through Neighborhood Legal Services or Lawyer Referral Services or the Public Defender's Office. Additionally, we try to provide interpreters when requested by the litigants. Off the bench, every citizen should lobby for adequate funding for the Courts and Legal Service organizations.

**Paula A. Patrick, Philadelphia - Philadelphia**

**Campaign email:** info@ElectJudgePatrick.com

**Campaign phone:** 412-527-2759

**Campaign Facebook:** [facebook.com/electJudgePatrick/](https://facebook.com/electJudgePatrick/)

**Campaign Twitter:** @judgepatrickPA

**Occupation:** Judge of Court of Common Pleas

**Education:** Bennett College

Texas Southern University-Thurgood Marshall School of Law

**Qualifications:** Common Pleas Court Judge since 2003

Written more than 400 opinions to the 3 state appellate courts; Trial lawyer for almost 10 years; Former Adjunct professor at LaSalle University; Former City Commissioner, Appointed



**Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

I think that courage is the most important quality in a jurist. A judge should not be afraid to make the difficult and hard decisions. A judge should also be able to rise above the pull of politics and public opinion.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

A judge is required to perform her judicial duties impartially, competently and diligently and should disqualify herself when she cannot perform her duties in an impartial way. A judge should recuse if there is a conflict of interest, personal bias, prejudice or if the judge has an economic interest in the case.

I have recused myself from a case when I was that person's prior judge on a different matter and when necessary in motion to suppress matters.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

I attempt to educate when possible about the justice system. I speak at forums, schools, community groups, churches, etc. to help give the public information that they may better be able to access justice.

**JUDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COURT**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Commonwealth Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, which was established in 1968, is unlike any other state court in the nation. Its jurisdiction generally is limited to legal matters involving state and local government and regulatory agencies. Litigation typically focuses on such subjects as banking, insurance and utility regulation and laws affecting taxation, land use, elections, labor practices and workers compensation. Commonwealth Court also acts as a court of original jurisdiction, or a trial court, when lawsuits are filed by or against the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Court is made up of nine judges who serve 10-year terms. The president judge is chosen by his or her colleagues for a five-year term. The court generally decides cases in three-judge panels and sits in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

**Term: 10 years—Salary \$191,422 (Vote for 2)**

## Democratic

### **Timothy Barry, Dormont Borough - Allegheny**

**Campaign email:** [timothybarry4judge@gmail.com](mailto:timothybarry4judge@gmail.com)



**Campaign phone:** (412) 606-8060

**Campaign Facebook:** [facebook.com/timothybarry4judge](https://www.facebook.com/timothybarry4judge)

**Campaign Twitter:** @timothybarry4judge

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Education:** J.D. 1979 University of Pittsburgh School of Law

B.A. 1975 University of Pittsburgh

**Qualifications:** I have practiced municipal and public sector labor law for 37 years. I have been honored to serve as Solicitor for numerous municipalities and to advise many communities on labor relations. I also serve as a Labor Arbitrator. This experience makes me uniquely qualified for the Commonwealth Court.

#### **Answer to Questions:**

##### ***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

"[Timothy Barry] is highly regarded and has a long history of pro bono and community service. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, professionalism and fairness in his interactions with clients and colleagues. The candidate is known for his integrity, knowledge of law and competence."

I believe that this quote from the PA Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Commission, regarding their opinion of my professional and personal qualities, best describes the ultimate qualities in a jurist.

##### ***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

I believe that even the slightest indication of impropriety or conflict is a reason to recuse. I have avoided conflicts throughout my career simply because, if there is any doubt, I recuse myself. In my 37 years of legal practice, I have always maintained the highest level of professionalism.

##### ***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

In 2015, I successfully represented a waitress in a Title VII, sexual harassment federal court jury trial. Due to a non disclosure agreement, I cannot divulge further details, but this case was about respect for women and women's rights. I am committed to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have equal access to a fair judicial system.

### **Joe Cosgrove, Wilkes Barre - Luzerne**



**Campaign email:** [info@cosgroveforpa.com](mailto:info@cosgroveforpa.com)

**Campaign phone:** (570) 213-7515

**Campaign Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/cosgroveforpa/?fref=ts>

**Campaign Twitter:**

**Occupation:** Judge of the Commonwealth Court

**Education:** Marywood College, M.A. Studio Arts

Notre Dame School of Law, J.D.

Notre Dame - B.A. Government and Int'l Studies; M.A. Theology

**Qualifications:** As a sitting judge on the Commonwealth Court, I am uniquely qualified to continue serving the people of Pennsylvania. I formerly served as a Judge on the Court of Common Pleas, and am the only Democratic candidate on the ballot to be "Highly Recommended" by the PA Bar Association.

#### **Answer to Questions:**

##### ***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

Dedication to fairness and equality. As a Judge on the Commonwealth Court and as a former Judge on the Court of Common Pleas, I have a proven track record of working to ensure fairness, equality and equal access to the law for all Pennsylvanians.

I was taught that everyone matters, that no one is more valuable than anyone else, and that justice and the law are the instruments by which we bring about that equality. Those are the principles that guide me as a Judge on the Commonwealth Court.

##### ***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

The cornerstone of every recusal question is (1) whether the judge knows of reasons or circumstances by which he or she would not be able to be fair and impartial, and (2) even if the judge would be fair and impartial, would a

reasonable person question that impartiality. As a judge, I wrote an opinion in a case where I recused myself sua sponte. This opinion was published in the Luzerne Legal Register. My recusal decisions are rooted in these principles.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

I have worked to make sure that our courts address the real problems faced by real people. I am especially proud of my work to create problem-solving courts, like Veterans Court, and the Luzerne County Mortgage Mediation Court, which kept families in their homes during the mortgage crisis.

The power of the law to effect people's lives is immense. On the Commonwealth Court, we understand that our decisions will affect the lives of all Pennsylvanians, possibly for generations to come.

**Ellen Ceisler, Philadelphia, PA—Philadelphia**



**Campaign email:** info@ceislerforpa.com

**Campaign phone:** 215-735-6760

**Campaign Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeEllenCeisler/>

**Campaign Twitter:** @ceislerforpa

**Occupation:** Judge - Court of Common Pleas

**Education:** Temple University; Temple University School of Law

**Qualifications:** I have served in the Criminal Trial Division for the first six years, presiding over jury and non-jury trials involving major felonies. In 2013, I was assigned to the Civil Trial Division, Civil Motions Court, regarded as one of the busiest and most

diverse Common Pleas Courts in PA.

**Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

I believe that a jurist must be fair, impartial, and free from bias. We must allow the facts of each individual case guide our decisions. It's also critical that jurists be ethical and transparent in all of our decisions.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

There have been times that I have recused myself from a case

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

We must also provide open access to the courts, meaning that it should not be difficult or burdensome for the public to interact with us. It's also vital that our opinions and actions be perceived as fair and independent, since that is the largest issue that the public has with trusting the judiciary. Finally, the public must hold us accountable if we are not performing up to these standards.

**Todd Eagen, Dunmore - Lackawanna**



**Campaign email:** Zach@toddeagen.com

**Campaign phone:** 412-855-8782

**Campaign Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ToddEagenCommonwealthCourtJudge/](http://www.facebook.com/ToddEagenCommonwealthCourtJudge/)

**Campaign Twitter:** @ToddEagen

**Occupation:** Labor Attorney

**Education:** BA, Political Science, Point Park University JD, Dickinson School of Law

**Qualifications** For over 20 years, I have worked as a labor attorney specializing in contract negotiations & arbitrations, workplace discrimination and general counsel to a multitude of labor unions across many different sectors. I have tried hundreds of cases in front of the

Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court.

**Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

Impartiality. I firmly believe that our judges must be impartial in every case, regardless of who someone is or where they come from. As a judge, I will always remain impartial and fair.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

While I would have to make the determination on a case by case basis, I would seriously consider recusing myself in instances where I have either represented the litigants in front of me in the past, or feel as though there is an appearance of a conflict of interest.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

As a judge on Commonwealth Court, I would work with my fellow judges to provide better access to services for pro se litigants. More and more courts are providing these services which allow individuals to represent themselves in situations where they do not need the assistance of an attorney. The Commonwealth Court should follow the direction of the lower courts in instituting these programs.

**Irene M. Clark, Pittsburgh - Allegheny**



**Campaign email:** ireneforjudge@gmail.com

**Campaign phone:** 412-848-3731

**Campaign Facebook:** Irene M. Clark for Judge

**Campaign Twitter:**

**Occupation:** Attorney at Law, Mediator

**Education:** 1982-Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania-B.S., 1988-CUNY Law School, J.D., 1999-McGregor School of Antioch University, M.A./Conflict Resolution

**Qualifications:** Judge-Pittsburgh Municipal Court-1993-2003; Public Interest Attorney-preventing and addressing blighted and abandoned real estate, training and educating on laws we have, drafting of and advocating for laws we need, implementing new laws, representing inaugural PA land banks-2003-present.

**Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

The capacity to be reflective is the most important quality in a jurist. It describes being thoughtful and contemplative. The teaching mantra of my public interest law school was “plan, do, reflect”. It instilled regular historical review of my place in and contributions to social justice as a lawyer and former judge. Just as the moon reflects only the light of the sun, a good jurist’s character, conduct and standards reflect only the highest values and aspirations of our system of democracy.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

I did not recuse myself from any case during ten years of judicial service on the Pittsburgh Municipal Court. Although I cannot anticipate circumstances under which I would recuse, I will always adhere to judicial conduct rules. I will continuously reflect on my impartiality from an objective point of view, readily disclose relevant information and be guided by Formal Advisory Opinion 2015-4 of the Judicial Ethics Committee of the PA Conference of State Trial Judges.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

My record demonstrates commitment to social justice as a public interest attorney and to quality court administration as a former judge. As an appellate judge, I will do my part to eliminate the ‘justice gap’. On the bench, I will review trial judges’ use of existing authority to appoint counsel for litigants. Off the bench, I will join and advance the state and national Civil Gideon movement and persevere for systems’ change needed for PA to achieve a record of excellence on access to justice.

**Bryan Barbin, Westmont - Cambria**



**Campaign email:** mkleinstub@atlanticbb.net

**Campaign phone:** 814 535 5561

**Campaign Facebook:**

**Campaign Twitter:**

**Occupation:** LEGISLATOR/ATTORNEY

**Education:** BA Economics JD University of Pittsburgh Law School 1982

**Qualifications:** Judicial Clerk Pa Supreme Court Deputy Attorney General State Representative

**Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

Fairness Impartiality and Respect for the Rule of Law

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

Appearance of Partiality

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

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## **Republican**

**Paul Lalley, Upper St. Clair Township - Allegheny Campaign email:** [lalley4judge@gmail.com](mailto:lalley4judge@gmail.com)

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**Occupation:** Attorney

**Education:** Dickinson School of Law -- J.D. 1996

University of Pennsylvania -- B.A. 1993

**Qualifications:** I am highly recommended by the Allegheny County Bar Association for Commonwealth Court and have twice been recommended by the Pennsylvania Bar Association for the Commonwealth Court. I am a former Pennsylvania Supreme Court law clerk and a successful appellate litigator.

### **Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

Fairness to the parties is the most important quality in a judge. It means treating parties with courtesy, respect, patience, and an open-minded willingness to listen to their positions and allow them to have their say.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

I would recuse myself from any case where the Code of Judicial Conduct requires my recusal, or in any case where, after serious reflection, I would find that I could not give impartial consideration to a party's cause for whatever reason.

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

Supporting the efforts of the ACBA and the PBA to ensure the provision of effective legal services to all members of our society, regardless of their means, is what I would continue to do if I am elected to the Commonwealth Court.

## **Christine Fizzano Cannon, Middletown Township - Delaware**



**Campaign email:** [christinefizzanocannon@gmail.com](mailto:christinefizzanocannon@gmail.com)

**Campaign phone:** 215-990-8928

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**Campaign Twitter:**

**Occupation:** Judge, Court of Common Pleas

**Education:** Widener U. School of Law, J.D. cum laude 1994, University of Arizona, B.A. 1991

**Qualifications:** I was honored to be rated "Highly Recommended" by the Pa Bar Judicial Evaluation Comm. for a seat on the Commonwealth Court. My 22 years of experience as a judge, attorney, public official, community leader, and special prosecutor have uniquely prepared me for

the position on this Court.

### **Answer to Questions:**

***What is the most important quality in a judge?***

I believe intellect, integrity, humility and temperament are important qualities for effective judges. As head of the court's Civil Trial Section, I listen and consider all sides of each matter before me with impartiality. A courtroom experience is often a rare and difficult experience for litigants. With this in mind, I apply a high level of courtesy and patience in the courtroom, which I believe can positively affect the level of trust and comfort that a litigant has in our justice system.

***Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused yourself from a case?***

It is important not only that a judge approach each case with an open mind and complete impartiality, but also that a judge avoid even the appearance of impropriety or partiality, which could undermine the public's confidence in the judiciary. I abide by the rules of judicial conduct which note that a "judge shall disqualify himself or herself in any proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

***As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?***

While I cannot advocate for or against specific legislation on the state level, I believe that everyone should have access to the justice system. I worked as a special prosecutor of child support enforcement and represented individuals who could not afford an attorney to see that delinquent child support obligors were brought into compliance. As a judge, I treat everyone I encounter fairly, impartially and equally, including litigants, attorneys, staff and the public.