



The Judicial Candidates Rating Coalition
1301 East Ninth Street, Second Level, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
Cuyahoga Criminal Defense
Lawyers Association

Norman S. Minor Bar Association
Ohio Women's Bar Association

CONFIDENTIAL

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Date: _____

Court for which you are a candidate: _____

Commencement of term: _____

The purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain detailed information from candidates seeking judicial office, including incumbents seeking re-election. Judicial office requires men and women possessing exceptional qualities of impartiality, integrity, temperament, diligence and professional competence. This questionnaire and your interview will be the principal instruments upon which each member group of this Coalition will rely in making a rating that reflects each group's application of these criteria, although other sources may be used. Each member group in JCRC will make its own rating, but will use common rating system, under which a rating of Excellent, Good, Adequate, Not Recommended, or Refused to Participate can be given to a candidate. We appreciate your time, and your true, honest, and candid answers.

Please answer all applicable questions and sign the jurat and the waiver.

GENERAL

1. Name: _____

2. Please list all other names by which you have been known:

3. Residential address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Since: _____

4. Business address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Business Phone: _____ Business Fax: _____

Email: _____

5. Date and place of birth: _____

6. Length of residence in State of Ohio: _____

In Cuyahoga County: _____

(For municipal court races only) In City within jurisdiction of court in which you seek to serve: _____

7. If you are a naturalized citizen, please state the date and place of naturalization:

8. Marital status: _____ Name of Spouse: _____

9. Children: _____

Name	Age
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

10. Military service:

Service	Branch	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Rank of discharge: _____ Type of discharge: _____

If active in the Reserve or National Guard, please list service, branch, unit and present rank: _____

EDUCATION

11.	College or University and Law School	Years of Attendance	Degree Received	Honors (if any)
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____

12. Have you ever been suspended, expelled or forced to withdraw from any college or university? If so, please give the details.

PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS

13. Please list all courts (including state bar admissions) and administrative bodies having special admission requirements to which you are presently admitted to practice, giving the dates of admission in each case.

Court or Administrative Body	Date of Admission
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

WORK HISTORY

14. Set forth your complete work history since college (excluding summer employment) in chronological order, stating each employer, the address of each employer, your position and the time period you were so employed. Also include in this chronological listing the same information with respect to any period of time in which you were self-employed.

Dates	Position	Employer Name and City, State
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

15. (a) Are you currently serving as a judge or magistrate? _____
(b) Are you currently engaged in the practice of law? _____.
(c) If you are **NOT** currently engaged in either the practice of law or serving as a judge or magistrate,

(1) State the dates of, and give a detailed description of your most recent five years of legal practice.

(2) Describe how your current work is relevant to your performance in the judicial office you seek.

CURRENT LAW PRACTICE (**Please answer Question 16a - m if you are currently engaged in the practice of law. If you are not currently engaged in the practice of law, you may skip Question 16 and go to Question 17.)

16. (a) Describe the nature of your current law practice.

(b) Please describe the areas of law in which you have practiced and the percentage of your professional time spent in each area over the last five years.

(c) Over the last five years, please state what percentage of your professional time has been spent handling litigation.

(d) If the nature of your practice or the percentage of your time spent in litigation for the last five years is significantly different than it was ten years ago, please describe the changes.

(e) Do you regularly appear in open court? How frequently have you appeared in court for trial, pretrial or hearings on average during the last 12 months?

(f) From the records of your present practice, please state the number of actions you now have pending in:

Supreme Court of Ohio: _____

Court of Appeals: _____

Probate Court: _____

Juvenile Court: _____

Domestic Relations _____

Common Pleas Court: _____
Civil _____
Criminal _____

Municipal Court: _____

Administrative Agencies _____

Federal Court: _____

Other jurisdictions: _____

(g) During the past five years, what percentage of your practice involving litigation has been:

CIVIL _____% CRIMINAL _____%
ADMINISTRATIVE _____%

(h) During the last five years, how many criminal cases have you handled as chief counsel? _____

As associate counsel or "second chair"? _____

(i) During the last five years, how many civil cases have you handled as chief counsel? _____

As associate counsel? _____

(j) Briefly describe at least three representative cases that you handled as lead counsel in the court to which you seek election.

(k) List the caption, the court, and whether you represented the plaintiff or the defendant in the last five cases you have tried to conclusion as chief counsel, and give the date and duration of trial.

(l) Identify up to three judges in Ohio or federal courts before whom you have practiced whom you regard as judicial role models.

(m) If the nature of your litigation experience during the last five years is significantly different than it was ten years ago, such as types of cases, frequency and nature of trial and pretrial work, etc., please describe the changes.

PRIOR JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

17. (a) Excluding your current judicial position, if any, state the dates and courts in which you served in the past as a judicial officer.

(b) Excluding your current candidacy, have you previously been a candidate for judicial office? If so, please identify the position sought, and the year and nature of race (primary, general or both).

(c) Please list any quasi-judicial service and include the name of the agency, position held, date of service, type of issues heard, number of cases adjudicated and the role you played in that judicial service.

CURRENT JUDICIAL OFFICE (**Please answer Question 18 if you are currently serving as a judge or magistrate. If you are not a sitting judge or magistrate, please skip Question 18 and go to Question 19.)

18. (a) In what court do you presently sit?

(b) On what date did you assume the Bench?

(c) Please attach a copy of the Annual Report Forms that you have filed with the Court Statistical Reporting Section of the Supreme Court of Ohio for your present term.

(d) If you are seeking a different judicial office from the one you presently hold, explain why you are seeking the new office.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS JUDICIAL OFFICER

Please answer for your most recent judicial office, if any.

19. (a) What specific goals did you attain during your tenure on the Bench that you believe merit attention by members of this Coalition?

(b) Describe in detail any problems you have encountered that prevented full attainment of your goals.

(c) Describe any program or procedure you implemented after assuming the bench that you believe improved the administration of justice in your court.

(d) In your opinion, what was or has been your greatest achievement(s) or accomplishment(s) during your period on the Bench?

HONORS

20. List any honors, prizes, or awards you have received.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

21. Please complete the following section, if applicable.

(a) Please state, as completely as possible, your entire teaching history, indicating at what institutions you taught, the courses you taught, the years encompassed by such teaching, and the title (if any) given you during such teaching activity.

(b) Please describe the focus of your teaching, research and writing.

PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

22. (a) Please list all Bar Associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any office you have held in such groups, and committees to which you belonged.

(b) Please list all organizations, other than those identified in response to Question 22(a), of which you have been a member during the past ten years, including the titles and dates of any offices held in each such organization.

(c) Please list any volunteer or other community activities not referenced above.

(d) If you have published any legal books or articles, please list them, giving citations and dates. Include publications written by yourself or with others.

BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT

23. (a) If you are now an officer, director, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise, state the name of such enterprise, the nature of the business, the nature of your duties, and whether you intend to resign such position immediately upon your appointment or election to judicial office.

(b) Since being admitted to the Bar, have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession, other than the practice of law? If so, please give the details, including dates.

(c) State whether, during the past five years, you have received any fees or compensation of any kind, other than for legal services rendered (excluding honoraria, interest dividends or gains from publicly traded securities), from any business enterprise, institution, organization, or association of any kind. If so, identify the source of such compensation, the nature of the business enterprise, institution, organization, or association involved, and the dates such compensation was paid.

PAST CONDUCT

24. Have you ever pled “guilty” or “no contest” to, or been convicted of a violation of any federal law, state law, county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If so, please give details. You need not list traffic violations for which a fine of \$250.00 or less was imposed, exclusive of costs, unless it also included a jail sentence. Include convictions subsequently expunged.

25. Has a client ever made a claim or filed suit against you or your law firm involving allegations of your professional malpractice? If so, state the date, the type of client, the nature of the claim, resolution, and a copy of any order or judgment adjudicating your conduct.

26. Have you ever been charged, in any civil or criminal proceeding, with conduct alleged to involve moral turpitude, dishonesty, and/or unethical conduct? If so, please give particulars, including the case caption.

27. (a) Have you ever been disciplined for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, or by the disciplinary authority for any profession in which you also hold a license? If so, please give the particulars including the year, complainant, nature of complaint, findings, and sanction, and provide a copy of relevant opinions and orders.

(b) Other than those noted in 27(a), give the particulars of any other complaint made against you for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct to which you have been required to respond to any court, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, administrative agency, Bar Association, or other professional group or disciplinary authority. **You do not have to list complaints of which you learned of only after they were summarily dismissed.**

28. Have you filed all appropriate tax returns as required by Federal, State, local, and other government authorities?

YES _____ NO _____ If no, please explain.

HEALTH

29. Do you now have any physical or mental condition, including an illness, impairment, or addiction, that might interfere with or limit your serving as a judge? If your answer is yes, please explain. Describe any accommodations you will require for the condition, illness, impairment or addiction you have identified.

GOALS AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

30. Why do you aspire to be a judge?

31. What professional accomplishments, experiences, and/or character traits do you believe would be of value to you and the community if elected *or* re-elected to the Bench?

32. What changes, if any, would you make if elected to the Bench? If you are an incumbent seeking re-election, what specifically would you change as a judge during your next term of office if elected once again to the Bench? Incumbent should specify any tools or techniques he or she plans to use to improve the efficiency of the docket and trial calendar.

33. Please state any other information you regard as pertinent to your candidacy.

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

I, having declared myself to be a candidate for a judicial office, do hereby consent to an investigation being made as to my moral character, professional reputation, and fitness for the office.

I hereby authorize and request any Certified Grievance Committee within the State of Ohio, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the Ohio Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline to release to this Coalition any information relating to grievances concerning my conduct prior to this date, and the disposition thereof.

I specifically request that any Bar Association to which I have provided information for the purposes of judicial evaluation make that same information available upon request to this Coalition.

It is my understanding that this Coalition will make all reasonable efforts to keep such information confidential.

I give this permission pursuant to Gov. Bar R. V., Sec. 11(E)(1)(a) and (b), but only for the purposes of this Coalition.

Date

Signature of Candidate

JURAT

_____, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that the information in the above questionnaire is true.

Signature of Candidate

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public