



# Judge4Yourself.com

*Ending the Guessing Game in Judicial Elections*

## **The Judicial Candidates Rating Coalition**

1375 East Ninth Street, Floor 2, 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:

Dear Candidate:

This questionnaire seeks detailed information from candidates seeking judicial office, including incumbents seeking re-election. Members of our Coalition will use your answers, your interview and other available information to assign a rating that reflects each group's application of our criteria, which are detailed at <http://www.judge4yourself.com/jcrc-rating-criteria.html>. Each Coalition member group will assign its own rating, but will use a common rating system. Ratings of Excellent, Good, Adequate, Not Recommended, or Refused to Participate can be used.

We recognize that responding to these questions will require time and effort. We believe that the information you supply will help us give the public thoughtful and accurate ratings of judicial candidates. Your responses are an opportunity for you to demonstrate that you are or would be the kind of excellent judge that we all would want for our clients and our community. We appreciate your time, and your true, honest, and candid answers. Do not, however, disclose information that you are required to keep confidential, or that is subject to attorney client privilege.

We prefer that you type your answers, and will supply this form in Word format for your convenience. If writing your answers by hand is unavoidable, please add extra pages where

necessary to complete your response. **Please keep a copy of your answers for future reference and use.**

**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. a. City and county of residence:  
b. How long have you lived in Ohio? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. How long have you lived in Cuyahoga County? \_\_\_\_\_  
d. How long have you lived in the jurisdiction in which you seek office? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Business address:  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Place and date of birth:
6. Marital status: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Number and ages (not names) of children:

**UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE EDUCATION**

8. School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Years: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Honors \_\_\_\_\_  
Attended: \_\_\_\_\_ Received: \_\_\_\_\_ (if any): \_\_\_\_\_
9. Have you ever been suspended, expelled, or forced to withdraw from any college or university? If so, please give the details.



reason. Please also list the date of your admission to all courts and administrative bodies having special requirements to which you have been admitted to practice, your current status and the dates and reason for any period during which you were not in good standing.

13. (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) Make sure to complete Question 23 for your most recent six years of legal practice.
  - (2) Describe how your current work is relevant to your performance in the judicial office you seek.

#### **HONORS AND AWARDS:**

14. List and fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

#### **BAR ASSOCIATION AND OTHER MEMBERSHIPS**

15. List all professional, business, fraternal, sororal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law

school. Please include bar associations, clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, or conferences. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any offices you held, and/or your noteworthy accomplishments in connection with the organization.

16. Canon 4(A) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct states that “a judge shall not hold membership in any organization that invidiously discriminates on the basis of race, gender, religion or national origin.” Comment [1] to Rule 3.6 the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct defines “invidious” discrimination as that which excludes a person, on a forbidden ground, who would otherwise be eligible for membership. If any of the organizations listed in response to question 15 above engaged in invidious discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, or national origin while you were a member, identify the organization, its discriminatory practice or policy, and any action you have taken to change such practice or policy.

## **WRITTEN WORK PRODUCT**

17. Please supply a copy of one to three briefs (if you are currently a lawyer) or judicial opinions (if you are currently a judge) that you authored and filed, preferably within the past 6 years. (*A minimum of one is required for those seeking trial court office and a minimum of two is required for any appellate court.*) Current Common Pleas court judges may simply direct our attention to opinions posted on the court’s website.

If you cannot supply either briefs or opinions, please supply a copy of at least one published work that you wrote (e.g. article, speech, report), preferably within the past 6 years. We prefer that the work submitted be exclusively your own work product. If it is not, please describe the role that others played. If you are unable to supply any writing sample at all, please explain why.

18. [OPTIONAL]. You may identify or supply copies of any books, articles, reports, or policy statements that you have published.

**JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE (QUESTIONS 19-21 ARE ONLY FOR THOSE WITH JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE)**

19. To permit us to review data about your docket management,
- a. Current magistrates, municipal court judges and Juvenile Court judges are asked to supply a copy of their individual Judge Reports to the Supreme Court for December of each previous year of their current term of service, and October of this year.
  - b. We will review the publicly available Court of Common Pleas Statistics Reports, and request from Common Pleas judges only copies of any applicable supplement (e.g. Commercial Docket Supplement Form A) for December of each previous year of their current term of service, and October of this year.
20. Significant cases.
- (a) Please provide the following information about **2** (for municipal, probate, juvenile, and domestic-relations court candidates) or **3** (for all other candidates) cases over which you presided that were particularly memorable or significant to you:
    - (1) case caption;
    - (2) a short summary of the nature of the case;
    - (3) the outcome of the case; and
    - (4) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the case.
  - (b) [SUPREME COURT CANDIDATES ONLY] Provide citations (or copies) for three opinions that you wrote that were particularly memorable or significant to you.
21. Has an Affidavit of Prejudice ever been filed with the Ohio Supreme Court concerning you? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_. If so, describe the affiant's allegation briefly and how the matter was resolved.

## **PUBLIC OFFICE**

22. List chronologically any elected or appointed public offices you have held or sought, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service, and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual or entity that appointed you.

## **LAW PRACTICE**

Answer each part separately. FOR JUDGES WHO WILL, AS OF JANUARY 2018, HAVE COMPLETED AT LEAST ONE *FULL* TERM OF SERVICE, THIS QUESTION IS OPTIONAL.

23. For your current or most recent law practice, and every distinctive period of practice in the past, whether or not with a different office, describe:
- (a) the general character of your law practice;
  - (b) your typical clients and or matters, and the legal areas, if any, on which you have focused.
  - (c) The percentage of your practice in litigation and whether you appear in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all.
  - (d) The percentage of your practice in: federal courts   %; state courts of record   %; other courts   %; and administrative agencies   %.
  - (e) The percentage of your practice in: civil proceedings   %; and criminal proceedings   %.

24. Estimate the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative-law judges, that you have tried to verdict, judgment, or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel, and

What percentage or numbers of these trials were: jury % and non-jury %.

25. [ APPELLATE COURT CANDIDATES ONLY] Describe your practice, if any, before the Ohio Supreme Court or U.S. Supreme Court.

26. Have you served as a mediator or arbitrator? If so, describe your work as a mediator or arbitrator, including your years of experience, panel affiliations if any, and typical subject matter. Please describe in general terms one or more matters, significant to you, that you have handled as a mediator or arbitrator, without compromising any confidentiality obligations.

## LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

27. (THIS QUESTION IS INTENDED FOR LAWYER CANDIDATES AND NEWLY SEATED JUDGES. IT IS OPTIONAL FOR JUDGES WHO WILL, AS OF JANUARY 2018, HAVE ALREADY *COMPLETED* AT LEAST ONE *FULL* TERM OF SERVICE.) Describe at least five litigated matters that you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record, that are memorable or significant to you, including the following information:

- (a) case caption, including docket number and year, if this information is readily available to you;
- (b) names of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated;
- (c) the nature of the case;
- (d) the party or parties you represented;

- (e) the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case;
- (f) the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties;
- (g) why this case was memorable or significant to you.

### **OTHER LAW RELATED ACTIVITIES**

- 28. Pro Bono Work. The Statements on Professionalism adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the Court's September 20, 2007 Statement Regarding Provision of Pro Bono Legal Services by Ohio Lawyers encourage Ohio lawyers to help provide the pro bono representation that is necessary to make our system of justice available to all. Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, including the types of matters handled, when you did this work and an estimate of the time you devote to pro bono work each year.
- 29. Teaching. Describe your teaching experience, if any, including school or sponsoring institution, the years in that you taught the course, and the subject matter. If you have a syllabus for any such course, please attach it.
- 30. Lobbying. Have you performed lobbying activities for any client or organization? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_. If so, and without compromising privilege, identify for whom you have performed lobbying and describe your lobbying activities.
- 31. Other. Please describe any other significant professional activity you wish to call to our attention.

## POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

32. Deferred income/future benefits. List the sources and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred-income arrangements, stock, options, incomplete contracts and other future benefits that you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients, or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.
33. Outside commitments during court service. Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service with the court? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_. If so, explain.
34. Other potential conflicts. Identify any other circumstances that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you assume the position that you are seeking. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

## CONTACTS

35. In connection with your candidacy for judicial office, has anyone discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue, or question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_. If so, explain fully.

## PAST CONDUCT

36. 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? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_. 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.

37. Has a client ever made a claim or filed suit against you or your law firm involving allegations of your professional malpractice? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_. 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.
38. Have you ever been charged, in any civil or criminal proceeding, with conduct alleged to involve moral turpitude, dishonesty, and/or unethical conduct? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_. If so, please give particulars, including the case caption.
39. 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? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_. 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.
40. Other than those noted in 39, 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 only after they were summarily dismissed.**

41. Have you filed all appropriate tax returns, and paid all taxes due, as required by Federal, State, local, and other government authorities? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_. If no, please explain.

## **HEALTH**

42. Do you now have any physical or mental condition, including an illness, impairment, or addiction, that is likely materially to limit or interfere with your serving as a judge? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_. If your answer is yes, please explain. Describe any accommodations you will require for the condition, illness, impairment, or addiction you have identified. (If, for personal reasons, you wish to discuss your response to this question only with the Coalition's chair, please feel free to contact us; we are not trying to be intrusive, but to explore possible impacts on judicial performance.)

## **GOALS AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS**

43. Why do you aspire to be a judge?
44. 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 that he or she plans to use to improve the efficiency of the docket and trial calendar.
45. Please identify the greatest issue(s) that the judiciary, or the court that you wish to serve, faces today.

46. Please explain how your background demonstrates the level of community engagement and understanding appropriate to the judicial office you are seeking.
  
47. Please state any other information you regard as relevant to your candidacy.

**AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION**

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

I 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 of those grievances.

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.

I understand that this Coalition will make all reasonable efforts to keep such information confidential.

I give this permission under Gov. Bar R. V., Sec. 11(E)(1)(a) and (b), but only for this Coalition's purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

My commission expires:\_\_\_\_\_