

2009 CAMPAIGN

VOTERS GUIDE

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PENNSYLVANIA
CITIZEN EDUCATION FUND
VOTERS GUIDE
MUNICIPAL PRIMARY
MAY 19, 2009**

The League of Women Voters publishes this information neither to endorse nor to reject the views of any candidate quoted and does not assume responsibility for the contents of a candidate's reply. Each candidate's reply has been printed as submitted, except to use standard abbreviations in the interest of space and to edit from the bottom of a candidate's answer when the total response exceeds the word limit.

The candidates were asked to list their education, occupation and qualifications for the office they seek. They were also asked to reply to the question following the job description for of each office.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA
CITIZEN EDUCATION FUND
NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE
MUNICIPAL PRIMARY, MAY 19, 2009
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Polls open 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.**

This Voters Guide may be taken into the voting booth.

FOR ELECTION INFORMATION

Contact the Pennsylvania Department of State voting information website, www.votespa.com. From this site voters can verify their registration status, find out where to vote, see a demonstration on how to vote on the system being used at their polling place, contact information for county election and voter registration officials, obtain applications for absentee ballots, emergency absentee ballots and information and forms for voting absentee in the event of emergencies that occur after 5 PM on Friday May 15, and find helpful information for voters with disabilities. You may also contact your county Board of Elections. The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Information Center also provides election information. CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-692-7281 or visit our website www.palwv.org.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The material in this Guide was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. 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 March 25, 2009. They are listed according to their ballot order.

PURPOSE AND POLICY OF THE LEAGUE

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan: it does not support or oppose any political parties or candidates. Nothing in this guide should be construed as an endorsement of any candidate by the League of Women Voters.

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 absentee ballots must be received by the county Board of Elections by 5 P.M., Tuesday, May 12. Completed absentee BALLOTS must be received back at the Board of Elections by 5 P.M. on Friday, May 15. 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 15. 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 and instructions are available at www.votespa.com.

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. Additional information on candidates for statewide judgeships is available at www.smartvoter.org.

CERTIFICATION NOTE

As of the publication date of this guide, the slate of candidates listed below is accurate based upon the Pennsylvania Department of State's Bureau of Elections unofficial ballot.

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

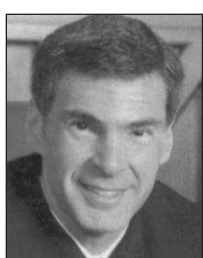
JOB DESCRIPTION

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority in the Commonwealth. In addition to being the final court of appeals, it serves as administrator of the unified court system and is responsible for ensuring that all Pennsylvania courts perform their duties properly. The Court hears decisions of the Superior and Commonwealth Courts and in certain cases, including those involving the death penalty, from the Courts of Common Pleas. It may also assume jurisdiction over any case pending before a lower court that involves an issue of immediate public importance. There are seven Supreme Court justices, the Chief Justice being the one having the longest continuous service on the Court.

Term: 10 years
Salary: \$186,450
(Vote for one.)

Question: The Judicial Conduct Board handles complaints about sitting judges filed by the general public. The Board reviews the complaints and if necessary, action can be taken by the Court of Judicial Discipline. How do you think this system of judicial oversight is working? Does it meet the public's need for assurance that justice is being served?

DEMOCRATIC



JACK PANELLA,

Bethlehem
D.O.B: 05/04/1955
EDUCATION: 1977, St. John's University, B.S.; 1980, Columbus School of Law, CUA, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Superior Court Judge
QUALIFICATIONS: County Solicitor, 4 years; Court of Common Pleas Judge, 12 years; Superior Court Judge, 5 years; Chair, Judicial Auditing Agency, 4 years; Administrative Judge, Wiretap Applications, 5 years; President, Court of Judicial Discipline, 1 year.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: As a former Chair of the Judicial Conduct Board and President Judge of the Court of Judicial Discipline, I know that, under the current system, allegations of judicial misconduct are thoroughly investigated and judges are held accountable for their misdeeds. Unfortunately, the public is largely unaware that this system of oversight even exists. We need to do more to educate the public, while balancing the rights of the accused with the need for greater transparency.

REPUBLICAN



JOAN ORIE MELVIN

Pittsburgh
D.O.B: 04/06/1956
EDUCATION: 1978, Notre Dame, B.A. 1981, Duquesne Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Superior Court Judge
QUALIFICATIONS: 23 years judicial experience; Superior Court Judge, 11 years, 8000 appeals; Allegheny County

Common Pleas Judge, 7 1/2 years, (served Criminal, Family, Civil Divisions); Chief Magistrate, Pittsburgh Municipal Courts, 5 years, established Pennsylvania's first Domestic Violence Court; private practice, corporate counsel.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: Judicial accountability is necessary to prevent abuses of power and corruption. The public trust in justice mandates that judges' decisions are accountable to the Constitution and the rule of law and the judiciary as a whole must be accountable to the citizens in its operations. The public must be protected, and rigorous standards of judicial ethics must be strictly enforced. The public must have confidence in the integrity and independence of the judicial system.



PAUL P. PANEPINTO

Philadelphia
D.O.B: 6/25/1949
EDUCATION: 1971, Villanova University, B.A. 1979, Villanova University, M.A. 1976, Widener University, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Common Pleas Judge
QUALIFICATIONS: Administrative Judge, appointed by

Supreme Court, 4 years; Trustee, National Council of Juvenile Court & Family Judges, 6 years; Practicing Attorney, 13 years; Probation Officer & Juvenile Master, 6 years

ANSWER TO QUESTION: I was appointed and served on the Court of Judicial Discipline, 2003-2007. I believe the Judicial Conduct Board is the proper vehicle for any individual to make a complaint and I believe it is fairly processed at that level for all concerned. From my experience, all complaints are given thorough consideration and investigation when they are deemed warranted by the board.



CHERYL LYNN ALLEN

Allison Park
D.O.B: 12/16/1947
EDUCATION: 1969, Pennsylvania State University, B.S. 1971-1972, Pittsburgh University Graduate School of Education
no degree due to law school matriculation 1975, Pittsburgh University School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Superior Court Judge

QUALIFICATIONS: My entire career is distinguished by a commitment to public service. I was a city school teacher for 3 years, and then worked as an attorney for Neighborhood Legal Services, a solicitor with the Allegheny County Law Dept., and individually private civil practice. Thereafter, I was a trial judge for nearly 18 years and received much recognition for my work on

behalf of children and families. Since January of 2008, I have served as an appellate judge in the Superior Court of PA.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: It is clear from recent events that judicial oversight has its deficiencies. Like all government entities, the judiciary should be held to the highest ethical standards. At present, Pennsylvania has in place a Code of Judicial Conduct, a Court of Judicial Discipline and a Judicial Conduct Board. In my view, these entities would benefit from increased public access and scrutiny, as well as additional internal measures to assure Pennsylvania citizens of their judiciary's integrity.

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Pennsylvania Superior Court is one of two intermediate appellate courts. It hears all criminal and civil appeals from the Courts of Common Pleas except for death penalty cases and those that are specifically assigned to the Commonwealth Court. The Court has fifteen judges, with the President Judge elected by the members. Judges of the Superior Court must be lawyers and must reside in Pennsylvania for at least a year before their election and for as long as they continue in office.

Term: 10 years
Salary: \$175,923
(Vote for not more than three.)

Question: The Judicial Conduct Board handles complaints about sitting judges filed by the general public. The Board reviews the complaints and if necessary, action can be taken by the Court of Judicial Discipline. How do you think this system of judicial oversight is working? Does it meet the public's need for assurance that justice is being served?

DEMOCRATIC



PAULA PATRICK

Philadelphia
D.O.B: 01/28/1960
EDUCATION: 1990, Bennett College, B.A. – Political Science 1993, Thurgood Marshall School of Law @ Texas Southern University, J.D.

OCCUPATION: Common Pleas Judge
QUALIFICATIONS: Common Pleas Court Judge for 6 years; Solo Practitioner as a general litigating trial attorney for almost 10 years; former adjunct professor at LaSalle University in the Criminal Justice Dept.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: I think that it is working, some improvements may be needed. I think it meets the public's need.

TOM MUNLEY

Scranton No Response



ANNE E. LAZARUS

Philadelphia
D.O.B: 11/12/1952
EDUCATION: 1972, SUNY at Stony Brook, B.A. 1976, Temple University School of Law, J.D. 1986, Temple University School of Law, L.L.M.
OCCUPATION: Common Pleas Judge
QUALIFICATIONS: Court of Common Pleas, 18 years

Attorney, 11 years
Ethics Committee, Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, Chair. First-ever recipient, PA Bar Association's Judicial Pro Bono Award

ANSWER TO QUESTION: As Chair of the Ethics Committee of the State Conference of Trial Judges, I can attest that the Conduct Board, composed of lay persons, attorneys and judges, thoroughly reviews any complaint they receive and if they decide to pursue prosecution, it is vigorous. I believe that the diverse group guarantees that the public's concerns are well met. If other disciplines were as ardent at policing their own, the public would be much better off.



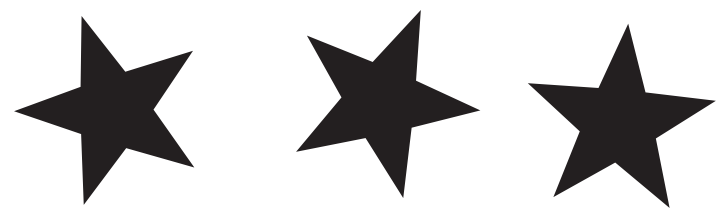
JOHN YOUNGE

Philadelphia
D.O.B: 07/19/1955
EDUCATION: 1977, Boston University, B.A. 1981, Howard University School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Common Pleas Judge – Philadelphia County
QUALIFICATIONS: Common Pleas Court judge, civil and

criminal, 14 years; former president, Pennsylvania Conference of Trial Judges; past president, Clifford Scott Green Judicial Council; board chair, The Consortium, a mental health agency; board chair, New Life Credit Union

ANSWER TO QUESTION: Even with the unfortunate incidents involving judges we've heard about lately, the only heartening aspect is that these cases provide evidence that the Judicial Conduct Board is doing its job – and is effective in it. The judiciary is a thoroughly regulated branch of government and the board takes serious care with every allegation, without prejudice, regardless of the source or reputation of the accuser or accused.

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(Continued)



KEVIN FRANCIS MCCARTHY

Pittsburgh
D.O.B: 08/14/1961
EDUCATION: 1983, University of Pittsburgh, B.A.
1986, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Assistant District Attorney – Allegheny County

QUALIFICATIONS: Law Clerk, James Rowley, J., Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 2 years Law Clerk, Fred Adams, and William Frank, J.J., Court of Common Pleas, Fayette County, Allegheny County District Attorney, Appellate Unit 18 years

ANSWER TO QUESTION: I believe this system of judicial oversight provides an efficient method for addressing complaints. It strikes a balance for the full and fair investigation of charges of judicial irregularities and malfeasance with the understanding that parties often feel aggrieved when dissatisfied with their cases' results. The previous system required the board to function as investigator and jury. The current system separates these functions between two different boards, allowing each to fully commit to its role.



ROBERT J COLVILLE

Pittsburgh
D.O.B: 08/03/1965
EDUCATION: 1989, Penn State, B.A.
1992, Duquesne University

OCCUPATION: Common Pleas Court Judge
QUALIFICATIONS: Trial Judge, 10 years; Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee, 7 years; Officer and President of PA Conference of State Trial Judges, 6 years; Trial Lawyer, 7 years; Law Clerk, PA Supreme Court, 2 years; Legislative Aide, Washington DC <year>; Public Defender Intern, 2 years; Union Laborer, 7 years

ANSWER TO QUESTION: The Judicial Conduct Board and the Court of Judicial Discipline are responsible institutions that aggressively investigate reports of judicial corruption in the hopes of eradicating it. Unfortunately, as with all human endeavors they, sometimes, fall short of their aspirations. It is my hope that, in spite of the recent reports of the morally reprehensible and criminal conduct of a few individuals and the resultant tragic consequences to the specific individuals directly affected by such miscarriages of justice, the public will maintain its trust that the vast majority of our judges are honorable.

REPUBLICAN



JUDY OLSON

Wexford
D.O.B: 10/19/1957
EDUCATION: 1979, St. Francis College, B.A.
1982, Duquesne University School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Common Pleas Court Judge

QUALIFICATIONS: Trial and appellate lawyer, 27 years; Chairman, Antitrust Group and Partner-in-Charge of Litigation (Pgh. Office), Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, "Highly Recommended" by PA Bar Association

ANSWER TO QUESTION: Nothing is more important to the operation of our judicial system than preserving the honor, dignity, independence and integrity of the Pennsylvania judiciary. The Board works hard to enforce the ethics laws by investigating allegations made against a judge and pursuing those claims that are meritorious. However, it is the responsibility of all citizens to make sure that the Board functions properly by bringing concerns to the Board's attention and keeping the Board's actions transparent.



SALLIE MUNDY

Tioga
D.O.B: 06/29/1962
EDUCATION: 1984, Washington and Jefferson College, B.A.
1987, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Attorney

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a litigator with extensive experience in defending civil suits brought against doctors and nurses accused of malpractice as well as in the representation of catastrophically injured individuals as claimants. I have also practiced criminal law as a volunteer Public Defender. I am honest, impartial and industrious.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: The key to public trust is transparency. All documents filed with, and all hearings held before, the Court of Judicial Discipline are open to the public. The Judicial Conduct Board, which investigates complaints against a judge, does have confidentiality but I believe the public understands that confidentiality is necessary not only to protect the reputation of an unjustly accused judge, but also to prevent retaliation against the complainant. Appointments to these entities are accomplished in a manner that assures that neither political party, nor the judiciary itself can achieve control.



TEMP SMITH

Pittsburgh
D.O.B: 05/20/1952
EDUCATION: 1974, Washington & Lee University, B.A. (English)
1977, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Attorney

QUALIFICATIONS: Extensive experience briefing and arguing appellate cases on a wide variety of issues; more than 31 years of legal practice in diverse areas of law; ratings of Recommended from PA Bar Association and Highly Recommended from Allegheny County Bar Association.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: The existing system of judicial oversight appears to be working. I view the fact that serious misconduct has recently been discovered in trial courts in two counties not as an indication of systemic failure, but, rather as an indication that the vast majority of Pennsylvania's judges are fulfilling their duties and that the very few who are not are being discovered are dealt with appropriately.

JUDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COURT

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Commonwealth Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. 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 Court has nine judges, with the President Judge chosen by its members. The court generally decides cases in three-judge panels and sits in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

Term: 10 years

Salary: \$175,923

(Vote for not more than 2)

Question: The Judicial Conduct Board handles complaints about sitting judges filed by the general public. The Board reviews the complaints and if necessary, action can be taken by the Court of Judicial Discipline. How do you think this system of judicial oversight is working? Does it meet the public's need for assurance that justice is being served?

DEMOCRATIC

LINDA S JUDSON

Pittsburgh
D.O.B: None Given
EDUCATION: 1979, St. Francis General Hospital, Alvernia School of Practical Nursing, L.P.N.
1986, University of Pittsburgh, B.A. (cum laude)
1990, Duquesne University School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Attorney

QUALIFICATIONS: Attorney 20 years practice in matters that come before Commonwealth Court: 1991, Clerk for Commonwealth Court, Honorable Bernard McGinley; 1991-93, Technical Specialist (as an attorney), Marsh & McLennan Insurance regulation, risk management, regulatory compliance including OSHA & workplace safety matters.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: Current problems in certain counties clearly indicate that the system is not working. Through education of the public, including posted notices in courtroom areas, awareness of the recourse provided by the Judicial Conduct Board should be developed. Internal judicial system guidelines should reinforce the obligations of each judge to the integrity of the entire system.



BARBARA ERNSBERGER

Pittsburgh
D.O.B: 08/16/1951
EDUCATION: 1973, University of Pittsburgh, B.A., cum laude
1976, Duquesne University School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Attorney and Partner, Behrend and Ernsberger, PC

QUALIFICATIONS: Attorney, 32 years, Community Advisory Board, 6 years; Commissioner City of Pittsburgh Department of Planning, 4 years; Chair of City Pittsburgh Democratic Committee of (32) wards, 7 years; Trustee, Shady-side Presbyterian Church Nursery School, 5 years; Pittsburgh City Council, Woman of the Year 2002.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: The system of judicial oversight is working for complaints that are filed for the Judicial Conduct Board to review. However, if there is improper activity outside the scope of the Board's review, such as the two judges in Scranton, who were taking monies for referrals of juveniles, to juvenile facilities, then the system did not work. The public needs assurance through the creation of a task force to examine the juvenile court referral system and make creative recommendations.



JIMMY LYNN

Philadelphia
D.O.B: 10/15/1947
EDUCATION: 1970, LaSalle University, B.A.
1973, Loyola University, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Common Pleas Judge

QUALIFICATIONS: 18 years as a Trial Judge – almost all court divisions; Prosecutor, 3 years; 15 years private practice; Recommended by PA Bar Association. Extensive lifelong record of service.

ANSWERTO QUESTION: I believe this system of judicial oversight is working well, and is a vast improvement over the former single tiered system. The current system allows for more oversight by allowing for the Board to investigate before sending cases to the Court of Judicial Discipline. Prior to the implementation of this system, the Board would only make recommendations to the Supreme Court. The Board itself is made up of lawyers, judges, and lay people alike to provide a balanced viewpoint to all cases.



STEPHEN G POLLOCK

Huntingdon Valley
D.O.B: 05/10/1951
EDUCATION: 1972, Muhlenberg College, A.B.
1975, Temple University School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Attorney

QUALIFICATIONS: Member, Pennsylvania State Planning Board, 5 years; Member & Chair, Lower Moreland Twp Planning Commission, 18 years; Member & President, Huntingdon Valley Library Board, 8 years; Chair, Real Property Section, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1 year.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: The present system of judicial discipline is far superior to the now defunct Judicial Inquiry Review Board, which Board was

generally ineffective. The new Board's investigations are kept confidential similar to investigations of a grand jury. The recent increase in number of judicial disciplinary actions indicates the Board is working. I believe however, the Board should demonstrate greater independence and the selection of its members should be more transparent. Public investigation of judicial discipline does not advance the justice system.

MICHAEL D SHERMAN

Mount Lebanon No Response



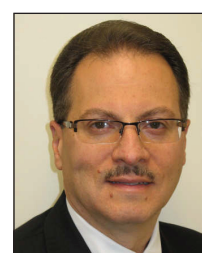
DANIEL K BRICMONT

Pittsburgh
D.O.B: 10/2/1964
EDUCATION: 1987, University of Pittsburgh, B.S.
1990, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D. cum laude
OCCUPATION: Attorney
QUALIFICATIONS: 19 years experience in plaintiff

personal injury practice focusing on representing injured workers in Social Security Disability, Workers' Compensation and occasionally Unemployment Compensation matters. Mayor of Avalon elected 1993 to 2005. Performed duties of a Mayor in a Borough (population approximately 5,200) in Allegheny County.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: The Judicial Conduct Board in the Court of Judicial discipline are only part of the manner in which Judicial officers are supervised, the process must balance the public's need for a forum to raise "performance" issues, with the Judges concern over complaints initiated by disgruntled litigants. In order for the public good to be truly served, the presiding judge (usually the President Judge or Chief Justice) of each Court needs to be attentive to the duties of the Judges whom they supervise and sensitive to the reports of misconduct or complaints related to the Judges within their supervisory authority.

REPUBLICAN



AL FRIONI

Pittsburgh
D.O.B: 02/25/1963
EDUCATION: 1985, University of Pittsburgh, B.A.
1988, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Attorney

QUALIFICATIONS: Administrative Appeals Judge – Commissioner, Pennsylvania Workers Compensation Appeal Board, 12 1/2 years, resigned February 2009. In-house counsel Travelers Insurance, Staff Assistant to Senator Heinz, Attorney for 20 years.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: This system is nationally ranked and within the top five in the US. Several hundred complaints are investigated yearly with only a handful of sanctions imposed. The success of this system is grounded in the ability of anyone – layperson, lawyer, administrator, another judge or even a disinterested party to bring a confidential complaint against a judge without fear of reprisal. The open complaint process allows the public to be the true "watchdog" here.



PATRICIA A MCCULLOUGH

Pittsburgh
D.O.B: 11/15/1956
EDUCATION: 1978, University of Pittsburgh, B.A.
1980, University Strasburg
1981, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D.
OCCUPATION: Attorney

QUALIFICATIONS: Served as Judge, Allegheny County Court Common Pleas; Attorney (28 years) private/corporate practice; Executive Director Catholic Charities; member/chair Allegheny County Board of Property Appeals; Adjunct faculty member; state/local committeewoman; community volunteer.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: Although the JCB is committed to ensuring that justice is served, the promulgation of specific criteria governing areas like the conduct of judicial campaigns and contributions would improve the ability to benchmark fairness and impartiality. Because of my commitment to these ideals, I did not take the pay raise while a judge in Allegheny County's Court of Common Pleas and will not take campaign donations from special interest groups or lawyers.



KEVIN BROBSON

Harrisburg
D.O.B: 11/26/1970
EDUCATION: Lycoming College, B.A.
Widener University, J.D. (2nd in Class)
OCCUPATION: Attorney

QUALIFICATIONS: Broad-based Commonwealth Court practice; Recommended by PA Bar Association; Middle Paxton Twp. Planning Commission; American Inns of Court; Commonwealth Court Historical Society; Best Lawyers in America; Dauphin County Bar and PA Bar Pro Bono Award Winner; Married, father of three.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: Grounded in our state Constitution, the process serves an important role in our justice system. Half of the Judicial Conduct Board's twelve members must be neither lawyers nor judges, ensuring substantial involvement of the general public in this oversight role. Generally, I believe the process has been and can continue to be effective. Like any public institution, however, its effectiveness can only be evaluated by the work of those entrusted to keep it.

