

AFSCME DISTRICT COUNCIL 47
2019 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
(Common Pleas Court Judges)

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate Personal Contact Information (Fields marked with asterisks are required)

Name: *Damaris L Garcia
Registration Address: 1600 Arch Street, #1513, Philadelphia, PA 19103*
E-Mail: * DLGforjudge@gmail.com
Home Phone: *267-456-0808
Work Phone: *267-456-0808
Cell Phone: *267-456-0808
HQ Phone: *267-587-6545
Fax: *N/A
Work Address: *PO Box 30280, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Campaign Contact Information

Full Name of Campaign Committee: * Damaris L Garcia for Judge
HQ Address: * PO Box 30280, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Campaign Manager Name: * Gianni Hill
Campaign Manager Phone: * 717-386-2256
Campaign Manager E-Mail: *gianni@giannihill.com

Candidacy Information

What office are you seeking? * Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia

Are you the incumbent? * Yes ___ No X If yes, year first elected:

With which party are you registered? Democrat

Please list union leaders you seek input from when developing your legislative agenda:

I am a judicial candidate and I do not have a legislative agenda.

Who are your opponents?

There are 10 seats available for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. I do not know with certainty the number of candidates that are running for those seats. I have not listed the candidates as I do not want to leave anyone off the list.

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If there is not sufficient space to respond to the following questions, please attach additional sheets to the questionnaire.

1. What in your background qualifies you to be a judge of the Court of Common Pleas? Why do you want to be a judge?

I am a native Philadelphian having lived in Philadelphia for the majority of my life. I have 20 years of trial experience where I practiced in the Philadelphia courts trying cases before juries primarily in matters involving personal injury and breach of contract. I also have extensive pro bono experience assisting various members of our communities from all walks of life in matters ranging from criminal expungement to small business compliance. My professional experience, pro bono record, and even temperament qualifies me to be a Judge on the Court of the Common Pleas. I am also recommended by the Philadelphia Bar Association. I intend to use the experience that I have gained professionally and through my pro bono work to dispense justice with compassion, common sense, and fairness.

2. How would you describe your judicial philosophy if you are a sitting Common Pleas judge?

I am unable to answer this question as per the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct.

3. Common Pleas Judges are sometimes asked by employers to set aside or vacate arbitration awards. What considerations, if any, would compel you to set aside or modify an arbitration award pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement? Are there any circumstances under which you believe you would set aside an arbitration award?

I am unable to answer this question as per the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct.

4. Common Pleas Judges are often asked to issue injunctions in connection with labor disputes. What considerations would compel you in judging whether it is appropriate to issue an injunction in a labor dispute?

I am unable to answer this question as per the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct.

5. Have you performed any pro bono work in your career within the last 2 years and if so, what was it?

Yes. I currently serve as the chair of the pro bono initiative at Democratic City Committee. As a pro bono attorney at Philadelphia City Committee, I have the pleasure of assisting members of our communities in various matters ranging from criminal expungement, landlord tenant disputes, and assisting small business owners in city compliance matters. I also mentor teenagers and young adults in future career planning.

6. What would you consider in deciding to limit picketing in a labor dispute?

I am unable to answer this question as per the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct.

7. Under what circumstances do you believe alternatives to incarceration are appropriate? What do you believe are the most effective programs for preventing recidivism?

I am unable to answer this question as per the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct.

8. How many and what types of cases have you handled in the last several years?

From 2017 - present, I have handled approximately 1000 civil cases involving personal injury and breach of contract claims on behalf of both Plaintiffs and Defendants.

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9. With an Adult Probation/Parole Department and a Prison Department so severely understaffed and underfunded, including the Options program and psychological services, what will you do to make sure that your judicial orders don't turn into a series of "unfunded mandates," without any real force of law?

I am unable to answer this question as per the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct.

10. What is your position on mandatory sentences?

I am unable to answer this question as per the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct.

11. Would you be in favor of a liaison from the probation department to discuss court problems with court administrative judges? Why or why not??

I am unable to answer this question as per the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct.

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