

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

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

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

Name: \* Hon. John R. Padova, Jr.  
Registration Address: \*123 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Philadelphia PA 19103  
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**Campaign Contact Information**

Full Name of Campaign Committee: \*Padova for Judge  
HQ Address: \*123 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Philadelphia PA 19103  
Campaign Manager Name: \*Joseph Messa, Jr.  
Campaign Manager Phone: \*215-651-6452  
Campaign Manager E-Mail: \*jmessa@messalaw.com

**Candidacy Information**

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

Are you the incumbent? \* Yes  X  No      If yes, year first elected: **Appointed in 2019 and 2022**

With which party are you registered? Democrat

Please list union leaders you seek input from when developing your legislative agenda:  
**Not Applicable for the Judiciary**

Who are your opponents?

**A number of candidates are running for Court of Common Pleas currently, and the number will likely drop after petitions. Current candidates include Jason Rubin, Anthony Stephanski, Samantha Williams, Wade Albert, Aaron Peskin, Patrick Moran, Kay Yu, Nicole Gerson, Cortez Patton, Kendra McCrae, Jessica Brown, Jon Marshall, Karima Yelverton, Ken Joel, Colleen Osbourne, Brian Kisilewski, Melissa Francis, Brian McLaughlin, John Padova, Jim Eisenhower, Tamika Washington, Damaris Garcia, Will Braveman, Chesley Lighstey, David Glanzberg, Natasha Taylor-Smith, Raj Sandher, Joe Russo, and MK Feeny.**

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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?

**Currently, I am a sitting Judge in the Court of Common Pleas. I am Highly Recommended by the Philadelphia Bar Association. I was appointed by Governor Wolf in 2019 and again in 2022. I was endorsed by AFSCME DC 47 in 2021 and I would be honored to earn your endorsement again.**

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

**My trial experience as an attorney over a 30-year period and recent Judicial endeavors enable me to understand the problems of everyday people, laborers and attorneys. I recognize that the law in the courthouse belongs to all people alike. It is my philosophy to administer the law fairly and mannerly to all parties. When parties leave the courthouse, it is my goal that they feel they were sufficiently heard in a respectful manner. My philosophy is to offer the willingness to listen, the desire to understand and to give respect and consideration to everyone who comes before me.**

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?

**An arbitrator's award is given great deference because the parties have chosen and agreed to an arbitrator to resolve their disputes through the collective bargaining agreement. Collective bargaining agreements often contain what the union regards as basic and essential entitlements for its members. A Judge should consider from the language of the agreement and facts of the matter whether or not the award denigrates or takes away such entitlements. A judge should consider whether the award violates public policy.**

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?

**A judge may not issue any restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction in labor disputes except in conformity with the Labor Anti-Injunction Act. This Act prohibits injunctions except under extremely limited circumstances such as: 1) unlawful acts that have been committed or will be committed unless restrained; 2) substantial and irreparable injury to complainant's property will follow unless relief is granted; 3) complainant has no adequate remedy of law 4) public officers charged with the duty to protect complainant's property are unable to furnish adequate protection. Union members health and safety must be recognized and considered also.**

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

**My 1st judicial term ended in January 2022. I then did pro bono for Eviction Diversion Program until I was reappointed to the bench July 30, 2022.**

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

**Labor picketing is recognized as a protected form of assembly and free speech. The Labor Anti Injunction Act generally prohibits a judge from issuing injunctions or restraining orders in cases involving labor disputes. A judge may issue an injunction only under extremely limited**

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**circumstances, or limit picketing when an employee(s) acting in concert, or a labor organization, seize, hold, damage, or destroy the plant, equipment, machinery or other property of the employer with the intention of compelling the employer to give in to any demands**

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

**Alternatives such as diversion programs where treatment for substance abuse (inpatient or outpatient treatment) would be appropriate. House arrest, community service or a boot camp program are alternatives to incarceration. Rehabilitation programs are beneficial as an alternative to incarceration such as vocational, educational training (i.e.GED program).**

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

**I have handled hundreds of cases representing individuals, families, and workers such as catastrophic injury, premises liability, wrongful death, car crashes, construction injuries, workers compensation, wrongful employment termination, discrimination, medical error and cases to recover disability and other insurance benefits.**

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 would schedule periodic status hearings with those on probation and parole to review the progress of the person on probation or parole and address any modification to the conditions of the probation/parole to properly effectuate supervision.**

10. What is your position on mandatory sentences?

**Mandatory minimums result in excessive, severe sentences which are based upon offense characteristics and ignore offender characteristics. Every sentence should be judged on its own set of circumstances including observing whether the case involved violent or non-violent conduct, the prior record of the offender, rehabilitation needs of the offender, and other mitigating or aggravating circumstances. Studies show that mandatory minimums lead to prison overpopulation. There are effective alternatives to incarceration resulting from mandatory minimums such as drug treatment programs and vocational/educational diversion programs**

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 would be in favor of liaisons as they can assist in supervising concerns and alternatives in working with the Juvenile or Probation/Parole department. They may be beneficial in improving communication between the Juvenile or offender with the Probation/Parole department.**

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