

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

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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

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Campaign Contact Information

Full Name of Campaign Committee: *Braveman for Judge
HQ Address: * Suite 2135, 123 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147
Campaign Manager Name: * No designated campaign manager, all contact can be made to me through below cell and email
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Candidacy Information

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

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

With which party are you registered? Democratic Party

Please list union leaders you seek input from when developing your legislative agenda:
Bobby Davis (DC 33, Local 696)
Tony Dinkins (DC 33 Business Agent)
Ernest Garrett (DC 33 President)
Evon Sutton (DC 33 Political Director)

Who are your opponents?

Current Candidates: Patrick Moran, Kendra McCrae, Jon Mitchell, Jason Rubin, Jessica Brown, Kay Yu, Nicole Gerson, Karima Yelverton, Judge Ken Joel, Judge Tamika Washington, Judge Brian McLaughlin, Judge John Padova, Damaris Garcia, Senator Larry Farnese, Judge James

**AFSCME DISTRICT COUNCIL 47
2019 Candidate Questionnaire
(Common Pleas Court Judges)**

Eisenhower, David Glanzberg, Natasha Taylor-Smith, Raj Sandher, M.K. Feeney, Chesley Lightsey, Anthony Stefanski, Samantha Williams, Wade Albert, Aaron Peskin, Carolyn Turner, Deneen Wilkerson,

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?

My qualifications include over 25 years of practicing law in Philadelphia as an Assistant and Deputy Solicitor, a union attorney, a child welfare attorney an employee attorney and a patient advocate in Mental Health Court. Many of these proceedings include intense and volatile atmospheres which have prepared me well to remain calm and focused in court. I strive to remain respectful, fair and compassionate to my clients, opposing parties, lawyers and support staff. Knowing that parties and witnesses who appear in court are often in acute crisis, I would attempt to demonstrate that there are people in the system who care about their voices, about the proceedings remaining professional, and about treating them with respect and candor throughout the process.

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

It would be an honor to preside over a courtroom that models fairness, decorum and dignity. I would want people (whether parties, witnesses, lawyers or advocates) to feel as comfortable as possible in the courtroom. Court should be a safe place to tell stories, share experiences, and advocate for clients and their positions. Parties should be treated with respect and dignity regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender orientation, gender identity, age, religion or disability.

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 would apply the law in determining whether or not to set aside such an award or to modify it. Specifically, I would seek to learn if there was fraud, abuse or gross misconduct by the underlying arbitrator, which could justify setting aside an arbitration award. If one of these circumstances were present, I would set aside the arbitration award.

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?

AFSCME DISTRICT COUNCIL 47
2019 Candidate Questionnaire
(Common Pleas Court Judges)

I would apply the law in determining whether or not to grant an injunction by considering possible irreparable harm, and any other factors pertaining to the application of the relevant laws.

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

I have performed pro bono work in the last two years as follows:

- Support Center for Child Advocates.. representing a child in family court
- Philadelphia Bar Association Legal Line... answering legal questions during free telephonic clinic pertaining to employment law
- DC 33 Local 696... attending their quarterly meeting and answering legal questions
- Democratic City Committee... representing clients and responding to questions in employment law and mental health matters

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

Although I have not handled a case involving picketing, I would apply the law, understanding that employees have rights to oppose employer policies and peacefully picket.

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

Although I have not handled criminal matters, my belief is that alternatives to incarceration are worthy of consideration, especially in the case of non-violent crimes. If there is a program which provides a person a path to recovery and rehabilitation such that they can be a productive citizen, these programs should be considered and favored. Specifically, job programs, skills training programs, access to education programs (for degrees, GED's and technical training), housing programs, case managers, medication management and therapy for those with mental illnesses, connection to community centers, and other access to social services are all helpful.

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

During the last 5 years, I have handled the following matters:

State Court:	While appearing on approximately 240 days over the past 5 years, I settled or tried to verdict approximately 4800 listed case hearings as sole counsel on behalf of patients in Mental Health Court Civil Commitment proceedings (based on an average list of 20 patients, 4 days per month for the last 5 years). I served as co-counsel on approximately 4 personal injury cases in the past five years which were all settled. I litigated two Guardianship matters in Orphans Court in which I was sole counsel. I also served as sole counsel in Family Court support contempt proceedings on approximately 40 different occasions over the past five years where matters were settled or tried to verdict.
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**AFSCME DISTRICT COUNCIL 47
2019 Candidate Questionnaire
(Common Pleas Court Judges)**

Civil Service Commission: I settled or tried to verdict approximately 9 cases as sole counsel.

Federal Court : I settled 2 matters during the discovery process.

Also, I had a third case (Binns v. Lynch/U.S.M.S., a race discrimination case which proceeded against the United States Marshals Service) wherein summary judgment was granted by a Federal Court Judge in 2019 which I co-counseled with Alice Ballard. I served as sole counsel during the agency phase of this case wherein a full trial was conducted in Arlington, Virginia before an Administrative Judge. Although this case was dismissed in Federal Court, I am very proud of my work on this case in opposing the practices brought to my attention and spending well in excess of 250 hours fighting for this employee who was the only African American lead Court Security Officer in Federal Court.

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?

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As a mental health court advocate over the past 26 years, I agree that funding, implementation and follow up are all needed. If assigned to a court division where these issues arose, I would attempt to list cases for a status of these services to ensure that the ordered services were in fact being utilized, as funding and bureaucracy often stand as obstacles to the effective administration of services. I would also seek to attend meetings within the Court administrative system to advocate for added and adequate funding to meet the needs of the citizens we serve.

10. What is your position on mandatory sentences?

As a judge, I would apply the law and sentence a person within the range of minimum and maximum sentences as required by the law, considering any mitigating or aggravating circumstances of a person's background as required by law.

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 such a position. Learning about the problems within the system from those on the front lines with knowledge of those problems is the only way to impact change. If we close our eyes and isolate from the realities of these problems, they are far less likely to change for the

**AFSCME DISTRICT COUNCIL 47
2019 Candidate Questionnaire
(Common Pleas Court Judges)**

better.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Will Braveman

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