

AFSCME DISTRICT COUNCIL 47
2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
(Municipal Court Judges)

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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

Name: * Colleen McIntyre Osborne
Registration Address:
E-Mail:
Home Phone:
Work Phone:
Cell Phone:
HQ Phone:
Fax:
Work Address:

Campaign Contact Information

Full Name of Campaign Committee: * Friends of Colleen McIntyre Osborne
HQ Address: * PO Box 22352 Phila, PA 19110
Campaign Manager Name: * Jim McIntyre (Treasurer)
Campaign Manager Phone: * 215-431-9038
Campaign Manager E-Mail: * friendsofcolleenosborne@gmail.com

Candidacy Information

What office are you seeking? * Municipal Court

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 do not have a legislative agenda.

Who are your opponents?

Rania Major - Republican
Barbara Thomson – Democrat (we are the two Democratic nominees).

(Municipal Court Judges)

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 Municipal Court? What would you like to achieve as a judge?

My career started out at Kent McBride, P.C., an insurance defense firm. During law school, I interned at the Montgomery County and Philadelphia DA's Offices. My goal was to become a prosecutor, and I was offered a position at the Philadelphia DA's Office in 2009. However, due to the recession that began in 2008, the Philadelphia DA's Office withdrew all offers, including mine. Kent McBride was gracious enough to give me a job, knowing that I would ultimately pursue a career as a prosecutor, which I did in January 2010 in Montgomery County.

I was a prosecutor from January 2010 through September 2022. I have handled every aspect of a criminal case from investigation through charging, pretrial motions, trials, appeals, and the PCRA stage. I was a trial attorney from 2010 – 2017. In Montgomery County, I was assigned to the Drug and Sex Crimes teams, where I tried jury and bench trials. I also tried multiple homicide juries in Montgomery County. In Philadelphia, I was a trial attorney for over 4 years in the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Unit (FVSA), where I tried jury and bench trials. In 2018, I transitioned to the Law Division of the DA's Office, 4 where I handled Post-Conviction Relief Act (PCRA) petitions. There, I wrote countless briefs and handled numerous evidentiary hearings. In addition, I occasionally handled FVSA and Homicide cases at the trial level while in the PCRA Unit.

I am also a Major in the United States Army Reserve JAG Corps. I started my Army career as a legal assistance attorney, serving soldiers with personal issues including divorce, bankruptcy, and landlord/tenant issues. I then served as a defense counsel for soldiers facing disciplinary actions, courts-martial (criminal), and separation proceedings. I am currently an Assistant Brigade Judge Advocate, where I advise my commander on everything from fiscal law to military justice, with a focus on employment law.

I currently work for the School District of Philadelphia as an Investigative Officer in the Employee and Labor Relations Office doing Title IX work. I investigate complaints of harassment and discrimination that are based on a protected class.

As someone who has been on both sides, I know that a prompt resolution is important to both a complainant and the accused/respondent. I will lead my courtroom by example, by being prepared, working hard, and always striving to resolve cases. When I look to courtrooms I want to emulate for their efficiency, it is the judge that sets the tone—not the attorneys or staff. I know how frustrating it can be on both sides when the judge does not want to work, and how nice it is when the judge does want to work. Therefore, I promise to show up, lead by example, and set the right tone for the day—everyday.

2. How would you describe your judicial philosophy as a judge in Municipal Court?

I think it is important to realize that while theoretically everyone has equal access to the court system, in practice that could not be further from the truth. I always go back to the analogy "everyone may have a pair of shoes, but not everyone has a pair of shoes that fit." In order to ensure equal administration of justice for all people, a judge needs to listen to all the facts, and apply the law fairly. In doing so, it is important to have empathy for individuals and to listen to their story of how they got there. Between transportation, child care, ability to take off work, access to advocacy, and navigating the system, it is obvious that not everyone comes to court with "shoes that fit." I promise to have patience and empathy for everyone who enters my courtroom by making sure they know their rights, know which form they are filling out, having staff trained on explaining how individuals can apply for pro bono attorneys, and most importantly—being kind.

I also plan to have a staff that reflect the diversity in the city. Seeing someone who looks like you in the courtroom promotes faith in the system. Everyone just wants to be treated fairly—no matter the outcome. Representation in the courtroom is important to participants' satisfaction in the system, and ultimately whether they believe they were treated fairly.

3. What is your position on mandatory sentences?

As a judge, I have to follow the law. As a judicial candidate I cannot express how I would rule on a certain case. However, I can tell you as an assistant district attorney, I was allowed to waive the mandatory sentence, and frequently did as it was not always appropriate. I will also say that as a Municipal Court Judge, I cannot think of a scenario (besides a DUI), where a case that had a mandatory sentence associated with it would be in front of me for sentencing purposes.

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

As an assistant district attorney, we were not allowed to handle pro bono work. However since leaving the DA's Office in September 2022, I have handled cases pro bono in include, DUI, expungements, landlord tenant, divorce, small claims, and violation of protection from abuse orders.

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

From 2010-2017, I tried over 100 criminal cases including jury and bench trials to verdict. In 99% of those cases I was sole counsel. This includes 25 jury trials. In addition, I have resolved over 1000 criminal cases through non-trial dispositions. From 2010 – 2017, I tried approximately 10 bench trials, and 3 jury trials per year. I resolved approximately 100+ cases a year, including felony and misdemeanor cases.