

2025 JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is designed to provide insight about your candidacy and to aid the various committee members in making a more informed choice when casting their endorsement vote. This will be shared with the members of the committees participating in the 2025 Judicial Candidates Zoom Conference and any other Democratic Committee/Committee member that requests copies. Your response is requested no later than: January 20, 2025. Please email your .pdf responses to: committee@mccandlelessdemocrats.org

Name: Quita Bridges

Campaign website: quitabridgesforjudge.com

1. Have you received a rating from the Allegheny County or Pennsylvania Bar Association? If so, please state the rating and year received. If not, are you applying for a rating? Please state when your interview is scheduled or why you are not applying for a rating.

Yes - Highly Recommended - 2025

2. What are your qualifications to run for a Judicial Seat? What specific accomplishments in your past have qualified you for this?

I am a graduate of Duquesne University Law School. I have been a trial attorney for 26 years. Over the course of my career, I have had dozens of jury trials and bench trials. I have navigated both trial and investigative processes which has given me an understanding of both the law and courtroom procedures.

I have the ability to analyze evidence thoroughly, weigh evidence objectively and make informed decisions based on my evaluation.

3. Describe the nature of your legal practice since graduating from law school, including the percentage of your practice dedicated to litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all.

After graduation from law school, I was the judicial law clerk for the Honorable Cynthia Baldwin. I joined the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office in 1998. I appeared in court daily representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I served in the Domestic Violence Unit, Violent Crimes and Firearms Unit and the Child Abuse Unit. I was promoted to Deputy District Attorney and placed in charge of the General Trial Unit along with three other supervisors. The General Trial Unit was made up of approximately 18 attorneys. I was responsible for giving guidance and assistance in preparing and presenting their cases or trial.

In 2014, I joined the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. I prosecuted various crimes in 23 counties in Western Pennsylvania. I was promoted to Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General of the Criminal prosecution Section. In this capacity, I am responsible for overseeing the day to day operation of the office in the West and the supervision of trial attorneys. In addition to my supervisory responsibilities, I also led the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General Medical Legal Advisory Board on Child Abuse.

I have appeared in court on a regular basis and 100% of my work has been in litigation.

4. Why are you running for this office?

Over the course of my career, I have been committed to justice, fairness, and the rule of law. I have witnessed firsthand the impact that the judiciary can have on individuals. I aspire to contribute meaningfully to a system that protects individual rights and uphold the principles of justice. I believe my experience, dedication and ability to listen and make balanced decisions would enable me to serve effectively in this capacity.

5. Have you ever run for or held office? If yes, what office? Why did you leave office?

No

6. Have you ever been arrested? If yes, list the county and state of arrest, the charge, and the outcome of the case.

No

7. Have you ever had a Domestic Violence Protection Order or Civil Stalking Protection Order taken out against you? If yes, list the county and state issuing the Order.

No

8. Do you have any outstanding tax liabilities? Have you ever had any outstanding tax liabilities in the past? If yes, describe them and the outcomes(s).

No

9. Have you ever had a malpractice claim filed against you? If yes, list the year and detail the complaint.

No

10. Have you ever had a bar complaint and/or grievance filed against you? If yes, list the Bar Association which handled the matter and the outcome of the matter.

No

11. Has your law license ever been inactive? If so, why?

No

12. Has any professional license held by you other than your law license ever lapsed, been denied renewal, suspended, or revoked for any reason? If yes, describe the circumstances and outcome(s).

No

13. Has your driver's license ever been denied renewal, been suspended, or been canceled because of unpaid tickets or for any other reason? If yes, describe the circumstances and outcome(s).

No

14. Do you have or have you had any liens or judgments on any property you own? If yes, describe the circumstances and outcome(s).

No

15. Have you ever sued or been sued in your personal capacity? If yes, describe the circumstances and outcome(s).

No

16. Have any sexual harassment allegations and/or complaints been levied against you? If so please detail.

No

17. Please provide your screen/username for all social media accounts, including but not limited to LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

a. Facebook: Quita Bridges for Judge

b. Instagram: quitabridges4judge

c. LinkedIn: Simquita Bridges

d. X: @Qbridges4judge

e. TikTok N/A

f. Other: N/A

18. Please disclose any other matter that may be of significance in your judicial race. Include in your disclosure any information about you that could be used negatively against you or the Democratic Party.

My career demonstrates a steadfast commitment to public service, extensive courtroom experience and proven leadership in both trial and supervisory roles. I believe these qualities, combined with my dedication to the legal profession, makes me a strong candidate for the position of Common Pleas Judge.

19. Please explain your thoughts on cashless bail? i.e. when is it appropriate and when is it not appropriate?

Bail is not to be considered a punishment but to ensure that a person returns to court. When determining whether a person should be released on cashless bail several factors are considered, such as, whether the charges are nonviolent, does the person have long standing residency in the community, family connection, whether the person works, the likelihood the person will appear in court, whether they have failed to attend other hearings, whether they have given previously false information about themselves, not a threat to community or person's safety. These factors are not exhaustive but are important to considering whether to give cashless bail.

20. Are you familiar with Senate Bill ("SB") 752 (Expanding Diversion; Focusing Detention and Out-of-Home Placements; Related Juvenile Justice Reforms)? Please explain whether you support the bill and explain your reasoning.

I am not familiar with SB 752 but I reviewed the components of the Bill. Without having a complete understanding of how effective the Bill would be or what type of crimes would be included or counter arguments to the Bill, it is difficult to state definitively whether I support the Bill. I am in support of improving the outcomes of the youth. I also agree that there should be state-wide consistency in pretrial diversion to avoid disparity between communities that receive diversion and those that do not.

21. Is a hot dog a sandwich? Please explain your reasoning.

A hot dog is not a sandwich unless you place it in a bun. The bun turns it into a sandwich.

Democratic Values

22. Why are you a Democrat? What makes you a Democrat?

My values, beliefs and priorities on issues related to justice, equity and opportunity align with the Democratic Party. I believe in a fair and equitable society where barriers based on race, gender and socioeconomic status and other factors are actively dismantled. I also believe in voting rights and ensuring that every individual has a voice in the democratic process.

23. If you do not receive the Democratic Party Endorsement for this position, will you run against the endorsed candidates?

Yes

24. Have you ever run for political office where you ran against an endorsed Democratic candidate? If so, why?

No

25. Have you ever changed your party affiliation or voted in a primary other than the Democratic Primary? If so, when and why?

No

26. Have you ever volunteered for a Democratic campaign? If yes, what candidate and what year?

Bill Petula for State Representative - 2024

27. What personal experiences have you had that you believe will shape your judicial temperament?

My temperament has been shaped by a combination of personal and professional experiences which have influenced my perspective, values, and decision-making. I have worked with individuals from diverse cultural, socioeconomic and racial backgrounds which has deepened my empathy and understanding of how systematic inequalities affect people differently. I have had to overcome challenges that have strengthened my resilience, humility and ability to relate to those experiencing difficulties. I have also had to make ethical decisions under scrutiny which has shaped my integrity and commitment to fairness. My life and experiences outside of my profession, such as raising children, volunteering in the community, and overcoming setbacks, has fostered patience, empathy and humility.

28. What does it mean to have a commitment to diversity and inclusion? In your personal, professional, or civic life have you demonstrated that commitment? If so, how?

Commitment to diversity and inclusion means embracing diverse perspectives and strengthening collaboration. This will enhance decision making and ensure justice is fair and equitable. I was a member of the Office of Attorney General Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee. I worked to promote an inclusive and equitable environment within the organization. My involvement includes participation in planning and execution of Diversity events and training sessions to raise awareness and understanding of the important issues. I also assisted in reviewing policies to ensure they reflect the Attorney General's commitment of equity and inclusion.

29. Have you previously represented any clients where you had to take a position adverse to any Democratic values or core constituencies (ex. representing an employer during a union busting campaign, representing a white supremacist)? If so, please explain.

N/A

30. Have you ever taken a public stance for or against the following? If so, please detail your position at the time of the public statement and where the statement can be found (if published or recorded):

- a. Women's Reproductive Rights - No**
- b. LGBTQ Rights - No**
- c. Marriage Equality - No**
- d. Right to Work Legislation - No**
- e. Collective Bargaining - No**
- f. Second Amendment - No**
- g. Vaccinations or other public health measures - No**
- h. The validity of any election or election process - No**

31. If you believe that gender, racial, ethnic, class or other forms of bias can infect the justice system, how will you work to keep your courtroom as bias-free as possible?

To keep my courtroom bias-free as possible, I would first acknowledge that implicit biases can affect everyone. As such, I would make sure that everyone that works in the courtroom receives training on implicit bias. I would also build in moments to consciously check for bias.

Additionally, I would clearly explain the reasoning behind decisions, so my decisions are based on facts and the law rather than stereotypes. I would always refer to individuals respectfully and avoid assumptions about pronouns, cultural practices or socioeconomic status.

I would continue to educate myself on issues related to systemic inequities and justice reform so historical biases are not influencing my decisions.