

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: Anthony DeLuca

Campaign website:

www.DeLucaforJudge.com

- 1. Have you received a rating from the Allegheny County or Pennsylvania Bar Association**
Yes.

If so, please state the rating and year received. Highly Recommended, 2021

If not, are you applying for a rating? Please state when your interview is scheduled or why you are not applying for a rating.

I have applied for a rating as it has expired. My interview is February 19th.

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

I believe that my wide variety of experience working with the major participants in the Criminal Justice System make me uniquely qualified to be a judge.

The most impactful period of my career is when I served as the Mental Health Court Prosecutor in Allegheny County. I was part of the team that developed the program along with a judge, the Public Defender's Office, Mental Health professionals and counselors. Through developing the program at its early stages and then working with the cases, I developed a more collaborative view of the criminal justice process. By working diligently to understand the needs of defendants, victims, and communities, we were able to fashion case results that addressed, as best as possible, the varying concerns and needs of those parties. By looking beyond the sentencing matrix, we were often able to obtain results that satisfied the victims, treated the offender, and protected society by reducing recidivism. As a result, as a judge, I would be interested in serving as a judge on the Mental Health Court and other similar courts

and looking elsewhere in the justice system to develop other areas in which a more collaborative approach would be useful.

This period with the mental health court meant so much to me that I continued, upon entering private practice as a criminal defense attorney over 15 years ago, to represent, often *pro bono* or at reduced rates, individuals with mental health problems charged with crimes. For a period, I instituted a mental health scholarship at my firm for individuals with mental health diagnoses desiring to go to college. The response to the scholarship was overwhelming and, as a result, I have been reassessing the scholarship with the goal to provide a larger pool of scholarship money to more future scholars in need.

With an eye toward becoming a judge later in my professional life, I tailored my career to have an opportunity to work closely with the different stakeholders in the criminal justice system. My hope is that by understanding the stresses and burdens of those involved in the system, I may fashion, through programs and my rulings, decisions that consider those needs and concerns and further the goal of justice for all.

In particular, in the DA's office, in addition to my aforementioned work with mentally ill defendants, I worked closely with victims of crimes and witnessed the toll that violence or other crimes had on them and their families. I often witnessed the hollow feeling that victims experienced following a sentencing and the inadequacy of the system as currently constituted to address their underlying feelings and concerns.

As a criminal defense attorney for over 15 years, I have seen the impact of addiction and mental illness on individuals and families. I have also witnessed the massive impact of the filing of criminal charges on a person's livelihood and ability to provide for his or her family. I have sat with individuals and families who are losing their loved one and breadwinner to incarceration because of a non-violent crime, often being detained due to a lack of financial resources to make bond or because of minor probation violations.

Additionally, I have proudly spent over a decade fighting for better wages, healthcare, paid time off and better working conditions through my work as a union labor lawyer. Through my local unions, I represent workers in a wide array of jobs in the private and public sector. One segment of my bargaining units is law enforcement officers. I have studied and analyzed police matters from economic issues to performance issues and I have gained an understanding of policing that no other candidate in this race can possibly possess. Given my wide array of experience, I believe I am well positioned to understand the parties involved in the societal issues, which I have witnessed throughout my career, brought to light to the general public through recent protests.

By combining the intimate experience of working closely with and representing these individuals, I believe I have gained the understanding necessary to make fair rulings that help people and society to improve without unnecessarily damaging a person's future, whether that be through ruling on a case or

sentencing or fashioning a result in a diversionary court. In short, I want the opportunity to improve the system as a whole and for individuals and believe I have the knowledge and ability to do so.

Finally, in addition to the well over one hundred cases I have tried to verdict in the criminal courts, I have provided representation to some degree in every division of the Court of Common Pleas

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.

Approximately 80% of my practice is dedicated to litigation. I appear in court frequently.

1997-1999 - Judicial Law Clerk, Appellate

1999-2005 – Assistant District Attorney, Allegheny County

Served in the following divisions of the District Attorney's Office:

- General Trial
- Pre-trial Screening
- Area Prosecutor (rotated between District Judges' Offices for Preliminary Hearings)
- City Court Prosecutor (also part of team that created a uniform expedited plea offer program at the Preliminary Hearing level- PDQ)
- Mental Health Court Assistant District Attorney (Involved heavily in the early stages of implementation of this program)
- Robbery/Complex Theft Unit Prosecutor, also tried homicide cases during assignment to this division

2005-Present (Private Practice)

Criminal Defense

Labor Law (Union Representation)

Wills and Estates

Civil Litigation

4. Why are you running for this office?

I have wanted to become a judge since interning with Judge Mazur of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas while in Law School. This desire was strengthened when I clerked for Justice Montemuro and Judge Lally-Green on the Pennsylvania Superior Court. Two aspects of being a judge appeal to me. First, my natural tendency to treat people fairly, listen to all sides of an issue and look deeper than the surface of a matter. Second, my parents were both teachers/school administrators and they instilled in me a belief that serving the public through your profession is the most rewarding work.

Ultimately, I believe that I have a uniquely broad scope of professional experience, which places me in a position to render fairer decisions, develop programs within the judicial system that will reach better more collaborative results and strike closer to actual justice rather than processed justice.

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

I have never held office. I ran for Court of Common Pleas in 2021 and 2023. I took a knee in the general election in 2023 to support Pat Sweeney after he won the primary.

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.

To my understanding, a client complained about my representation in a criminal jury trial. The client expressed great satisfaction with my work at the conclusion of the trial; however, was not happy with the verdict or his sentence. I received one phone call from an investigator and to my understanding, the complaint was dismissed.

I am not aware of and/or do not recall any other complaints filed against me.

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: <https://www.facebook.com/anthonydelucaforjudge/>

b. Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/deluca4judge/?hl=en>

c. LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anthony-deluca-7157269b/>

d. X:

e. TikTok

f. Other:

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.

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

Cash Bail in most cases is not appropriate. If it can be used to legitimately secure a person's appearance in court then it can be used but in most cases it does nothing more than place a financial burden on those forced to participate in the criminal justice system. If a person is a true threat to society then they should not receive bail and should not be given the right to get out of jail just because they are wealthy enough to post 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.

Yes, I am in favor in general of more diversion in the criminal just system, less time in the system with more treatment for people who touch the system and the complete reformation of the Juvenile Justice System.

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

I believe in the right of all people and things to self identification. Ask the Hot Dog. If it wants to be identified as a sandwich then absolutely, it's a sandwich.

Democratic Values

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

I am a democrat because I believe Democrats care about those of us struggling in our society and are willing to commit resources to help those people. Throughout my life I have worked to help such people through being part of starting Mental Health Court, to representing people with Mental Health Challenges in the Criminal Justice System. I also am a strong believer in Unions because they fight for those who otherwise may not have the ability to do so. In fact, I represent multiple labor unions as their labor attorney.

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

Highly unlikely.

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

In the 2023 Common Pleas Election, I received the Allegheny County Labor Council Endorsement, which was issued before the Allegheny County Democratic Committee Endorsement. Under those circumstances, the Unions had committed time and resources to me as candidate and did not wish for me to withdraw from the race. I ultimately was able to take a knee and support the endorsed Democratic candidate in the General Election. This year, the Committee Endorsement is before the Labor endorsement so this problem should not arise again.

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?

I have supported multiple Democratic Judicial candidates through the years.

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

I believe that judges should act with patience in understanding in the courtroom. As a father of three children, I believe I have learned much in that regard.

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?

Although my firm is small, our interns and part-time paralegals have been drawn from diverse backgrounds. Moreover, in our offices, we have provided an opportunity for low cost and even free office space for attorneys starting a practice or operating a small practice. These individuals include multiple races and genders. This opportunity provides a platform from which those attorneys can operate their practices as well as provide a benefit to the firm by supplying varied perspectives when confronting a legal issue. Furthermore, I believe that the best way to achieve the goal of inclusion in the legal profession is through hiring practices. By hiring and providing internships to a diverse group of people, those people will naturally develop the connections necessary for success in the legal profession. Moreover, other individuals of similar backgrounds are provided with role models. In the judiciary, these hiring practices can be applied in chambers and the larger system, thereby benefiting everyone through the infusion of robust viewpoints and more talent into the decision-making process.

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.

No.

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): I have not really made public statements on these issues.

- a. Women's Reproductive Rights**
- b. LGBTQ Rights**
- c. Marriage Equality**
- d. Right to Work Legislation**
- e. Collective Bargaining**
- f. Second Amendment**
- g. Vaccinations or other public health measures**
- h. The validity of any election or election process**

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?

I believe that the problem of implicit bias in the courts begins with who appears and does not appear before the court. I have seen as a defense attorney and prosecutor the role that implicit bias sometimes plays regarding which individuals are charged with a crime. Quite simply, in some situations, implicit bias in the form of who is investigated, stopped and charged determines who is and who is not charged with a crime.

1. A judge must do more than simply process the cases presented to the court. Rather, a judge must look critically to determine whether the mere presence of the case before the court is a product of implicit bias. A judge must then work to address that inequity.
2. A judge must be fastidious in sentencing, keeping track of the decisions made to ensure that implicit bias is not factoring into the decision making process.