

Two seats open on PA Superior Court in 2019, one Democratic judge up for retention



Two seats are open on the Pennsylvania Superior Court, which hears civil, family and criminal appeals. However, three candidates are seeking the Democratic nomination.

During the Primary Election on May 21, voters will only be able to only vote for two of the four candidates. The candidates still vying for the open seats include: Amanda Green-Hawkins, Beth Tarasi, Dan McCaffery.

In addition to the two open seats, voters will decide whether or not to retain three sitting judges whose current terms expire in 2020. One of the three judges up for retention, which requires a simple “yes” or “no” vote, is a Democrat: Anne Lazarus.

Read on to learn more about the candidates.

CANDIDATES SEEKING OPEN SEATS



Amanda Green-Hawkins

Originally from New Jersey, Amanda Green-Hawkins moved to Pittsburgh in 2002 to become assistant general counsel for the United Steelworkers Union. In addition to that role, she also currently serves as director of the Civil and Human Rights Department at United Steelworkers.

Amanda is an alumnus of Duke University and Northeastern University School of Law. Prior to moving to Pittsburgh, she was a law clerk for a judge serving on the Superior Court of New Jersey, Monmouth County.

A former Allegheny County Councilwoman, Green-Hawkins was recognized as a Pittsburgh Progressive Woman by the Langston Hughes Poetry Society for Women's History Month.

She lives in the Stanton Heights neighborhood of Pittsburgh with her husband and two children.

Watch for updates about Amanda Green-Hawkins' campaign at www.facebook.com/amandaforjudge/.



Beth Tarasi

Elizabeth M. Tarasi has announced she is also seeking election the PA Superior Court.

Tarasi was born in Pittsburgh and holds a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her Juris Doctor from Duquesne University School of Law, and is admitted to practice before the U.S District Court and the Western District of Pennsylvania.

A lecturer at the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, Allegheny County Bar Association, and at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Tarasi is a trial attorney with 27 years of experience. She currently practices law alongside her father, Louis M. Tarasi Jr., at Tarasi Law Firm, serving the Pittsburgh and broader Allegheny County area.

Tarasi is also a distinguished member of the Allegheny County and American Bar Associations, Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, Pennsylvania Association for Justice (Board of Governors), American Association for Justice, Million Dollar Advocates Forum and AV® Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rated for Legal Ability and General Ethical Standards.

Tarasi is the proud mother of two adult sons whom she raised as a single mother. She is married to Tony Sinatra.

Learn more about Beth Tarasi's campaign at www.tarasi4superiorcourt.com.

DANIEL MCCAFFERY



DANIEL MCCAFFERY

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Daniel D. McCaffery joined the Army at age 18 and was chosen to attend the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point Prep School. He later attended Temple University and Temple University Law School on a veteran's scholarship.

In 1991, McCaffery became an Assistant District Attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. In 1997, McCaffery joined Jaffe, Friedman, Schuman, Nemeroff and Applebaum PC in Montgomery County and was named partner in 2000. McCaffery chaired the firm's commercial litigation department and spent 16 years as a civil trial attorney.

McCaffery was elected judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in 2013. Since his election, Judge McCaffery has presided over 100 jury trials and thousands of bench trials.

Born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia, Judge McCaffery is the youngest of seven children born to Irish Catholic immigrants. His father Seamus was a union organizer and printer, and his mother Margaret was a custodial worker for the school district of Philadelphia. McCaffery resides in Philadelphia and is the father of two daughters, Madison and Mairead.

Keep up with Daniel McCaffery's campaign at www.facebook.com/McCafferyforSuperiorCourt.

JUDGE SEEKING RETENTION



ANNE LAZARUS

Superior Court Judge Anne Lazarus was elected to the court in 2009, with her term beginning in January 2010. Her first term will expire in January 2020, so she will also be on the ballot for a retention vote, where voters simply vote yes or no to keeping a judge on the court.

Lazarus received her B.A. degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and her J.D. and LL.M. from the Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Prior to becoming a PA Superior Court judge, Lazarus served on the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas from 1991 to 2010. She served as legal counsel to the Philadelphia Orphans' Court from 1980 to 1991.

Judge Lazarus has received various awards, including the Sandra Day O'Connor Award from the Philadelphia Bar Association, Legal Service for the Public Committee Judge's Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Benjamin F. Levy Community Service Award from the Brandeis Law Society, and Bernard White Community Service Award from PLAN of PA.

For more information on Judge Lazarus, visit www.pacourts.us/courts/superior-court/superior-court-judges/judge-anne-e-lazarus.

The Columbia County Democratic Committee does not endorse candidates, but makes every effort to help evenhandedly publicize individuals seeking the Democratic nomination or running on the Democratic ticket. We embrace the will of the people following the Primary Election and wholeheartedly support the nominees selected in the election process. (excerpted with gratitude from Clinton County website)