

**Judicial / Magisterial offices:**

As a candidate for the court, there are restrictions on what I may discuss with regard to issues that may come before me on the court, and my answers will reflect this. Personally, I am in favor of good, open, equitable, responsive, and responsible governing. I spent the last three years working for a national non-partisan civil rights organization, as a statewide voting rights lawyer, working with non-profit organizations, election officials, legislators, unions, and coalitions to eliminate barriers to voting and to increase access to electoral participation. In this capacity, I worked with statewide, local, and national partner organizations advocating for good government, environmental protections, women's rights, voting rights, and more.

***I. Privacy, openness, and accountability: Judicially, what tools are available to you to encourage a) greater openness in public information b) appropriate privacy of private information and c) professionalism and accountability of all city employees, most specifically police and emergency responders?***

Effective in 2009, Pennsylvania enacted a new Right to Know law, which expanded the availability of open records and information to the public. This law mandates open records offices and procedures that streamline the process for acquiring such records and information, and also gives greater clarity to what information is accessible, as well as what information is protected. Appeals of requests under this law are heard by the Commonwealth Court, so judicially, I will be interpreting and applying this law.

***II. Public-private partnerships: are there legal limits to a municipality or county's ability to sign away its public space via economic partnership agreements? How does one balance the legitimate desire of groups to protest and / or inform the public, vs. the public (or an individual's) right to not be bothered / harassed? Does it make sense to have a blanket ban on approaching people on the sidewalks in Schenley plaza, but not (e.g.) the sidewalks in the vicinity of certain medical providers?***

Appeals from these types of cases, relating to land use, municipal law, and zoning are heard by the Commonwealth Court. There are limits on what a municipality can and cannot do in these realms, and as judge I would consider the individual circumstances and all applicable laws and standards, which vary significantly from case to case.

As a general rule, the government cannot discriminate on the basis of membership in any protected class (race, religion, gender, national origin, etc.) or on the basis of the content of one's speech. There is a complex body of case law on limits of public-private partnerships and on balancing free speech rights with the right of people to be left alone. This balancing of interests is even more complex when other fundamental rights are impacted, such as reproductive rights and the rights of women to obtain medical care. I appreciate the importance of these countervailing interests and will interpret the law accordingly.

***III. "Freedom from" vs. "freedom to": what legal issues do you expect to address in terms of Marcellus shale or other extractive industries? Are certain of these conflicting freedoms / protections more nearly absolute than others?***

Appeals from these types of cases, relating to land use, environmental issues, and zoning, are heard by the Commonwealth Court. I expect that issues relating to the health and safety of

Pennsylvania's families, as well as our natural resources and environment, will need to be considered alongside competing private property, contract, and other rights. There is also the competing interest of local governments' right to regulate dangerous activities within their jurisdictions. There is also the issue of Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, which states that "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

***IV. Magistrates, common pleas judges and commonwealth court judges may all deal with family law issues. Insofar as it applies to your office, please address any / all of the following: a) What is your position on rights for minors with regard to issues like abuse, reproductive issues, and emancipation? b) What are your views on the court precedent of preferentially awarding majority custody to the mother? c) Do you feel step-parents should have any legal rights with regard to the step children they parent? Does this apply equally regardless of the gender of either / both parents?***

a) As a mother, I believe a child's health and safety is paramount. In issues of abuse, reproductive issues and emancipation, every circumstance is different, but I would apply the relevant laws to the individual facts for the best interest of the child.

b) I fundamentally believe in fairness and equality for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, race, color, age, sex, ancestry, national origin, religion, familial status, and disability. Furthermore, I believe the most important thing for a child is a loving, supportive and secure home, regardless of the gender of his or her custodial parent.

c) I believe that the health, safety, and best interest of a child should be the paramount concern in considering custodial matters.

***V. Since 2007, we have been asking candidates whether the "for profit" incarceration model suffers from an intrinsic conflict of interest. (That is, the prison will do better, financially, by increasing sentence lengths and by increasing recidivism, rather than by rehabilitating inmates.) Given the highly publicized kickback scandal involving for-profit youth prisons, we are instead stating that this is an actual, not a potential problem. What do you pledge to do about it, both in office if elected, and personally? Also, are mandatory sentencing guidelines part of the solution, or part of the problem?***

The shocking events that occurred with regard to the for-profit youth prisons are a travesty. As a candidate for judge, however, I cannot pledge to take action as a judge, other than to interpret and apply the law fairly, effectively, and ethically, for everyone who comes before the court. I am in favor of increased oversight over judges and others

in positions of power, to ensure that such unacceptable and despicable actions never occur again.