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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?

a) As a current Judge of the Common Pleas Court in the Family Division, I believe that the public should have a right to scrutinize and examine the workings of their Courts. Courtrooms should remain open, but television is not permitted. I personally have no problem with televising the proceedings. b) However, information regarding the issues of children, income and any non"public information which would lead to identity theft are problematic and must remain private. Likewise, the rights of children in the matters of juvenile dependence must likewise be protected. c) The Court must look at the way testimony and evidence is presented under oath. Where appropriate, sanctions must be applied if perjury is found.

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?

a) Yes there are limits in these agreements and where there is conflict, the public interest should prevail. First Amendment rights are quite specific regarding the public discourse. For example, just as the public has the right to hand out leaflets the other group has the right to walk away. It makes no sense to have a blanket ban on a public thoroughfare. A public thoroughfare is just that public, and as long as movement is not impeded and the discourse remains orderly, I believe that it is protected.

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?

My service to the Court is in the Family Division and I have not presently and do not in the reasonable future, expect to be dealing with this issue in any way.

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 minors lack legal capacity, their rights are protected through the use of guardians and legal representation. A minors right to this representation must be protected. b) The award of majority custody to the mother is no longer true. Recently a new custody law has been enacted to ensure that each party has certain rights. I think that it is in the best interests of the children to be loved and cared for by two parents. c) Step"parents should have should have these rights, especially where there has been legal adoption. It has been my experience that both opposite sex couples and same sex couples, have the same interests in raising children.

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?

I believe that mandatory sentencing guidelines take the discretion away from Judges, violate the separation of powers and should be redressed by the legislature. Whenever it is necessary to utilize these privately run facilities, the interest of the public must be protected by competitive bidding and placement of in these facilities should be based upon the recommendation of professionals and not the judges.