

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE

I, Daniel L. Miller, a candidate for judicial office, have familiarized myself with the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Code of Civility, as promulgated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. I have directed special attention to Canon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, including Rules 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4. I agree to conduct my judicial campaign consistent therewith and further consistent with *Republican Party v. White*, 536 U.S. 765 (2002). I further pledge that all campaign advertising will be done fairly, accurately, truthfully, and will maintain the dignity appropriate to the judicial office which I am seeking.

/s/ Daniel L. Miller

Signature of Candidate

1/23/25

Date

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

As a candidate or potential candidate for Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas the Pennsylvania Appellate or Federal Courts, I hereby acknowledge and authorize the procedures of the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee, including the following:

1. If I become a candidate, the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee will make available to the public the Questionnaire, and my responses, except for the questions and responses which are acknowledged to be confidential, which information shall remain available only to the Committee.
2. My responses are provided without breaching client confidentiality as embodied in Rule 1.6 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
3. If I become a candidate, the rating assigned to me by the Committee will be publicly announced. Ratings remain valid for 2 years but are subject to reevaluation upon request.
4. Should I receive a *Not Recommended* rating the Committee will endeavor to notify me prior to a public announcement. If I withdraw from the race, the rating will not be announced, and the questionnaires will not be published.
5. I hereby authorize the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board, the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners to transmit my entire file and record, including confidential information contained therein, to the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee. I hereby specifically waive any confidentiality rights I may have in those records.
6. I hereby authorize the Judicial Conduct Board, the Disciplinary Board, and the Board of Law Examiners, or the equivalent, in any jurisdiction where I have practiced, been admitted to practice or have applied to either take a bar examination or for admission to the bar to transmit my entire file and record, including confidential information contained therein, to the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee. I hereby specifically waive any confidentiality rights I may have in those records.
7. The Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee may change, during the course of my campaign for office, the original rating assigned to me for cause.

Daniel L. Miller

Type or print name

1/23/25
Date

/s/ Daniel L. Miller
Signature

ACBA JUDICIARY COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LAWYER APPLICANTS

I am seeking a rating for the following court:

(X) Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

1. State your full name and list any other name by which you have ever been known.

Daniel Laurenzano Miller but I was born Vincenzo Laurenzano. Due to a history of domestic violence, my mother changed my name to Daniel Laurenzano. This was later amended to Daniel Laurenzano Miller, which added my mother's maiden name.

2. Date and place of birth:

I was born on February 9, 1973 in Danbury, Connecticut.

3. Are you a naturalized citizen? If so, give date and place of naturalization:

No, I am a natural born citizen.

4. Family status:

a. Are you married? If so, state the date of marriage and your spouse's full name, including maiden name, if applicable:

I am married to Kimberly Linn Kovach, now Kimberly Kovach Miller. We were married on October 20, 2001.

b. Have you been divorced? If so, state the date, the number of the case and the court:

No.

5. Have you ever served in the military? If so,

a. Give dates, branch of service, rank of rate, and present status:

I enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1992 as a private (E2). I was honorably discharged due to an ankle injury.

b. Have you ever been rejected or released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable? If so, give details:

No.

6. List each college and law school you attended, including dates of attendance, and the degrees awarded and, if you left any institution without receiving a degree, the reason for leaving. List scholastic honors:

Degrees earned:

- 1999-2002: J.D. at the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law.

- 1992-1997: B.A. in History and B.S. in Secondary Education, Western Connecticut State University.

Schools attended without degree earned:

- 1991-1992: Naugatuck Valley Community College. Left to enlist in the Army National Guard.
- 1997: Western Connecticut State University, MA in History. Left to join the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps as a Team Leader based in their DC Campus.

7. List all jurisdictions in which you have applied to take a bar examination, have applied for admission or have been admitted to practice. Include dates of admissions and if not admitted, give application dates and explain the outcome.

Passed the bar and admitted to practice in Pennsylvania in 2002.

8. List your professional mailing address and telephone number including the name of any associated law firm. Please also list any personal and professional social media usernames and/or handles and any website you maintain or to which you know that your profile is shared.

Mailing address:

Ruder Law

One Oxford Center

301 Grant Street Suite 270

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Office telephone (include area code): 412-281-4959

Legislative office: 650 Washington Road Suite 102, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Social media accounts:

Account	Platform	Description
RepDanMiller	Facebook	Non-state account, operated personally
DanielMillerPA	Facebook	Personal account
VoteDanMiller	Facebook	Previous state rep election account, now judicial campaign
RepDanMiller42	Facebook	State account operated by staff and member
RepDanMiller	Twitter/X	State account operated by staff and member
VoteDanMiller	Twitter/X	Previous state rep election account, now judicial campaign
RepDanMiller	Instagram	Personal account

VoteDanMiller	Instagram	Judicial campaign account
RepDanMillerDistrict42	Instagram	State account operated by staff
RepDanMiller	Threads	Personal and campaign account
VoteDanMiller	Blue Sky	Personal and campaign account
RepDanMiller	Blue Sky	State account operated by staff
RepDanMiller	LinkedIn	Personal account
MillerDisabilitySummit	Facebook	Personal account for event
RepDanMillerDistrict42	Threads	State account operated by staff

Associated websites:

Website	Description
RepDanMiller.com	State site on legislative activities, designed by member operated by state
VoteDanMiller.com	Campaign site
DisabilitySummit.com	Non-state operated or controlled site, promotes event
RuderLaw.com	Business site, firm maintains a Facebook account as well

9. Describe chronologically your law practice and experience after your graduation from law school, including:

- a. **Whether you served as clerk to a judge and, if so, the name of the judge, the court, and the dates of the period you were a clerk:**
I did not serve as a law clerk.
- b. **Whether you practiced alone and, if so, the addresses and the dates:**
I did not accept clients as a sole practitioner.
- c. **The dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been connected and the nature of your connection with each:**
 - 1992: **Connecticut Army National Guard** (181 White Street, WCSU Room 20, Danbury, CT 06810). Enlisted and attended basic training and AIT in Ft. Sill, OK. Service cut short due to injury.
 - 1998-1999: **Law Offices of Morton Press** (2150 Wisconsin Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20007). Full time staff position assisting with real estate closings.
 - 2000: **DC Prisoners' Legal Services Project in conjunction with the ACLU** (700 14th Street Suite 400 NW, Washington, DC 20005). Paid internship during law school assisting with investigations and litigation concerning allegations of

price gouging regarding phone access for those incarcerated, assisted with client interviews and document preparation.

- 2000: **Department of Justice, Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA)** (Main Justice Building, Rm 1137, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC 20530). Law school internship with the OLA. My responsibilities included issue management, attending committee hearings, and conducting legal research relating to pending litigation.
- 2001: **National Labor Relations Board, Region 6** (1000 Liberty Avenue, #904, Pittsburgh, PA 15222). Paid internship during law school. Assisted with case evaluation and case preparation in matters pending before the Board.
- 2002: **Brennan, Robins & Daley** (445 Fort Pitt Blvd, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15219). Served as a paralegal pending bar results. Responsibilities included assisting in real estate title reviews and document preparation for real estate closings.
- 2002-08: **Allegheny County Public Defender's Office** (542 Forbes Avenue, #400 Pittsburgh, PA 15219). Made thousands of court appearances handling pretrial, probation and parole, mental health, and the occasional adult criminal matter, but primarily in juvenile court.
- 2005-2019: **Mt. Lebanon Fire Department** (555 Washington Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15228). Served as an interior firefighter earning firefighter 2 certification level. Retired with honorary status.
- 2006: **Everest Institute** (100 Forbes Avenue #1200, Pittsburgh, PA 15222). Taught property law for a semester.
- 2007-2011: **Mt. Lebanon Commission** (710 Washington Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15228). Served as Commissioner of the 5th Ward of Mt. Lebanon, prioritizing public safety and infrastructure issues.
- 2008-13: **Allegheny County Law Department** (445 Fort Pitt Blvd, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15219). Made several thousand appearances in the Family Division representing CYF (Children, Youth, and Families) in dependency procedures and the occasional overlapping dual delinquency cases.
- 2012-13, 2024-present: **Ruder Law** (One Oxford Center, 301 Grant Street Suite 270, Pittsburgh, PA 15219). Part-time lawyer at a small, boutique litigation firm that focuses on representing clients in special education matters.
- 2013-present: **State Representative** (650 Washington Road, Suite 102, Pittsburgh, PA 15228). Elected representative of the 42nd District, former House Majority Whip. Currently a member of the Judiciary, Labor and Industry, and Professional Licensure Committees, and Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime and Corrections. My legislative priorities have focused on disability, mental health, labor rights, and criminal justice. I also host the annual Disability & Mental Health Summit (DisabilitySummit.com).

- 2023-current: **Employment First Commission** (1700 Labor & Industry Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120). Appointed as Commissioner to work with the Department of Labor & Industry and other state agencies to increase competitive employment opportunities for disabled Pennsylvanians.

d. Any other relevant particulars.

In addition to serving several terms on the House Judiciary Committee, I have used my courtroom experience to inform my legislative work. Each of these bills I personally wrote, except for the Uniform Parentage Act, which given its topic and impact, needs to be as uniformed nationwide as possible:

- HB 1381 Improving our Juvenile Act: This was an omnibus bill that incorporated over a dozen recommendations from the bipartisan Juvenile Justice Task Force designed to improve our juvenile outcomes across the board.
- HB 190 Prioritizing victims and setting standards of fines and costs: This bill incorporated best practice recommendations for determining ability to pay court-ordered legal financial obligations, prioritized restitution, and provided greater clarity and flexibility for judicial discretion.
- HR 416 Supporting our courts: This resolution commissions a study to evaluate how the courts are meeting operating expenditures in relation to their growing reliance on the payment of fines levied against the people they supervise. Its goal is to suggest a structure that reduces operational reliance and challenges the legislature to fund the judiciary branch in a manner that strengthens independence.
- HB 188 Simplified Miranda rights for minors: Several jurisdictions outside of Pennsylvania have recognized that most juveniles do not understand their Miranda rights because the Miranda warnings require a more advanced comprehension level to understand than many children possess. This bill requires the adoption of simplified Miranda warnings in order to safeguard juveniles' rights.
- HB 350 Uniform Parentage Act: This bill sought to adopt the Uniform Laws Commission update to our Act. This update offers much needed changes to Pennsylvania family law, including changes relating to surrogacy, single parenthood, and marriage equality.

10. Regarding your practice:

- a. What has been the general character of your practice, dividing it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years?**

2002-2008

I started my career as a lawyer in our public defender's (PD) office, in part, because of a promise I made to my mom. I was the first person in my family to even graduate with a four-year degree and she had hoped I would pursue my public service through

teaching. But I told her that I believed that the law offered a type of public service almost unrivaled in civil service.

I loved being a public defender and litigating in the courtroom. I typically spent 3-4 days a week in court, devoting my time to litigating hearings, negotiating settlements, and attempting to make sure my clients' constitutional rights were well represented.

This stage of my career opened my eyes to the depth of the societal issues that often weighed heavily and disparately on my indigent clients. I grew up poor, without healthcare, and struggled to find school stability, so that aspect of my clients reality was at least relatable. But those issues, along with substance use disorder, unaddressed mental health, and disability needs often led to situations where even our legal wins were couched in the cloak of a seemingly inevitable return to the system.

I transferred out of pretrial, probation and parole, and mental health commitments (and the occasional criminal court appearance) in order to go to the Family Division, which provided the opportunity I sought to effectuate a positive, lasting change working with kids. Juvenile trials (hearings) were an interesting amalgamation of pretrial and criminal court, with fundamental differences from both but an opportunity for professional growth and integral public service to children in need. The allegations against my clients were seldom more challenging than helping them walk through a childhood often impacted by the trauma of multi-generational poverty, community violence, underperforming schools, racial disparities, and unrecognized and untreated mental health conditions and other disabilities.

2008-2013

As a public defender, I represented many clients who were also active with the dependency system concurrent to their delinquency case. Most counties schedule those hearings to occur separately, but in Allegheny County, these cases (dependency and delinquency) were correctly scheduled together on "dual days." I was intrigued by the chance to delve deeper into the environments my clients were coming from to understand how my representation of their interests could be more effective. Delinquent behavior seldom if ever occurred in a vacuum. At this point of my career I was ready to take another angle into such problems, and decided to transfer to the county law department to represent CYF (Children, Youth, and Families).

This was a formative experience, as the work closely mirrored cases that I had represented as a PD, but flipped the script legally by altering my responsibilities. As a solicitor, we were most often the moving party, and we were asking a court to allow us to become intimately involved in a families' daily lives. Dependency petitions could be

challenging, especially when the result sought was to remove a child from the only home they knew. But when that home was dangerous or detrimental to the child's development and no other service can be provided in-home to change that, removal of the child was a necessity. This often was traumatic for the child and the parent(s) alike, regardless of the reasons for dependency. But I learned that when done correctly, with all participants treated with dignity and respect, a successful dependency case could have short term success (safety, health, education, etc.) and long term benefit by supporting children, healing or creating families, and launching kids into a more independent, positive future.

On the professional level, dependency review hearings could be more challenging and time consuming than the petition hearing. Family reunification required compliance with a service plan, which was developed and implemented with a team of professionals. Most service plans had similar features, but all of them recognized the existence of ticking clocks. No matter what, a child keeps growing, bonds strengthen or weaken, and positive change for the child and the family typically does not happen easily or quickly. Dependent children are essentially wards of the state, so I often expanded our inquiry into their welfare by analyzing mental health and disability issues and education progress. Merely attending school or therapy was not good enough. The whole team had to make sure that every child received a free and appropriate public education no matter where they were, and we had to alter and occasionally temper goals for behavioral health progress. The reality was that for many, these issues would require lifetime engagement and mediation. That work opened my eyes to the role appropriate education has in adolescent development and in the prospect of a fulfilling life after childhood. This exposure to the barriers children face led me to go deeper into educational rights and become affiliated with Ruder Law, which focused on special education representation when families, students and school districts could not agree on supports and accommodations that were likely to increase success.

2013-current:

In 2013, I won a special election for the state House based in the South Hills. I knew that traveling to Harrisburg frequently and operating a busy district office was not compatible with maintaining a law practice, either with the county or privately. Determined to serve the voters who elected me, I spent this time focusing on serving my district. I have always kept my license active, and I leaned into my legal experience heavily in debating constitutional questions and personally writing major pieces of legislation primarily focused on disability, mental health, criminal justice, and labor rights. This included authoring bills that rewrote our Juvenile Act, changing how fines and costs are paid, and creating a paid family leave program here in Pennsylvania, among many others. I was honored to be elected seven times by my district, and twice

by my peers to serve in House leadership, including as Majority Whip. While I appreciated the opportunity to serve in the legislature, I always knew that my career would lead my back to the court.

Last year I re-affiliated with Ruder Law and I have begun advising on cases and drafting motions. At this period in my legal career I am grateful to realize that I have developed a deeper understanding of the law and what brings so many people before the bench. I have practiced law, written law, and now I am eager to bring my unique experiences to a position of larger impact.

b. Describe your typical clients and mention the areas, if any, in which you have concentrated your practice:

At Ruder Law, we are typically contacted by a parent or guardian who has reached an impasse with their school district regarding a necessary accommodation or support that would help their child with a disability learn. Our clients may or may not already have an IEP (Individualized Education Program) in place for their child, but often will need us to develop a plan that includes new evaluations that along with documentation can be used to buttress our claim that the school district can and must do more to support a child's education. Our clients are primarily from Allegheny County but have come from all across western Pennsylvania and beyond. We also work collaboratively with a variety of disability and mental health nonprofits, self-advocates, and advocates to broaden the scope of representation when necessary.

11. Regarding the last ten years:

- a. **Did you appear in court regularly occasionally or not at all? If the frequency of your appearances in court has varied during this period, describe each such variance, giving the dates thereof.**
- b. **What percentage of these appearances was in: Federal courts; State courts of record; Other courts:**
- c. **What percentage of your litigation was Civil; Criminal; Family; Orphans' Division:**
- d. **State the number of cases in courts of record where you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel or associate counsel.**
- e. **What percentage of these trials were jury versus non-jury?**

2024-2025

Court experience special education cases: Thus far limited to motions practice in Family Division.

2008-2013

Court experience as county solicitor all in the Family Division-

- Thousands of court appearances over the years, the average week had 3-4 days of court activity.
- Dependency petitions: all non-jury adjudications. It is hard to quantify the difference between settlements and full hearings, but a fair minimal estimate would be 75 contested adjudicated hearings.

Court experience as special education attorney-

- Co-counsel on several complaints filed in Federal Court.
- Motions practice and delinquency petition representation in Family Division.

2002-2008

Court experience as a public defender included criminal, orphans' and juvenile appearances.

- Thousands of court appearances over the years, the average week had 3-4 days of court activity.
- Juvenile delinquency petitions: all non-jury adjudications. It is hard to quantify the plea agreements and the full hearings, but a fair minimum estimate would be 50 contested adjudicatory hearings.
- Criminal trial: I was second chair on an attempted homicide jury trial, information provided in case synopsis below.

12. Summarize your experience in court the last ten years, indicating:

- a. Whether your appearances in court were more or less frequent;**
- b. Any significant changes in the percentage stated in your answer to questions 11(b), (c) and (e); and,**
- c. Any significant changes in the number of cases per year in courts of record you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled) as sole counsel, chief counsel or associate counsel.**

Answers for question 12 included in question 11.

13. Describe five of the most significant litigated matters which you personally handled and give the citations thereto, if the case were reported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case and a succinct statement of what you believe to be the particular significance of the case. Identify the party or parties whom you presented and describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case a) the dates of the trial periods, b) the name of the court and the judge before whom the case was tried, and c) the individual name, address and telephone numbers of co-counsel for each other of the other parties:

Case 1: In Re: W.P.

- Case citation: Juvenile delinquency case
- Name of Court and Judge: Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, the Honorable Christine A. Ward and the Honorable Guido A. DeAngelis
- Party you represented: W.P.
- Nature of your participation: Public defender for the defendant
- Dates of trial period: January 2005-April 2005
- Additional party counsel: Meghan Black, Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, 436 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
- Capsule summary: The Commonwealth filed two petitions against W.P., one alleging rape and sexual assault, and another alleging statutory sexual assault. Both accusers were relatives of the defendant, and the timeframe of both incidents were in close proximity. The cases were initially joined for trial. Since the defendant was a juvenile, he had no right to trial by jury. Because there was the substantial likelihood of prejudicial evidence being admitted in one case perhaps at the expense of the other, I successfully moved to sever the cases.
- Final disposition: Both cases proceeded to trial. In the case tried first (before Judge DeAngelis), W.P. was acquitted of rape and sexual assault. In the second trial (before Judge Ward), W.P. was adjudicated delinquent of statutory sexual assault.
- Case significance: This case was significant for a number of reasons. First, our successful pre-trial litigation strategy of separating the two cases not only helped to protect my client's right to a fair trial, but also enabled us to present a more robust and complete defense in the first case, which involved the most serious charges. This strategy likewise afforded us more time to adequately prepare to try both cases. This was especially helpful in connection with the first trial, which involved more complex fact issues. Indeed, in preparation for that trial, I conducted an extensive fact investigation, including several witness interviews. Our significant pretrial motions practice and preparation led to what we believed was a just and proper verdict—not guilty. The stronger evidence in the second case led to an adjudication. But as a result of the acquittal in the first case, along with the overall framing of the issues surrounding delinquency, we were able to persuade the Court to adopt probation goals for my client that was less restrictive, more treatment-focused, and ultimately more likely to succeed moving forward than a sentence that removed the child from the home for a lengthy period of time. As a younger lawyer still developing my litigation skills and accumulating courtroom experience, the uniqueness of this case helped me expand my skill set in both procedure and substance.

Case #2: Commonwealth v. Cox

- Case citation: CP-02-CR-0010907-2003
- Name of Court and Judge: Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, the Honorable Lawrence O'Toole

- Party you represented: Defendant
- Nature of your participation: Second chair at trial, lead at public defender at preliminary hearing
- Dates of trial period: April 2004
- Additional party counsel: Jim Sheets, Public Defender (current ADA), Ross Lenhardt, District Attorney (current AG)
- Capsule summary: Cox was the alleged target of a controlled buy that went horribly wrong and led to the shooting and severe injury of a police officer. He was 18 at the time with a lengthy history of juvenile involvement, and according to the police, when they identified themselves as officers during the transaction, Cox opened fire and eventually struck an officer. The bullet went through the vest and did massive internal damage to the officer. Multiple counts of attempted homicide were filed amongst other charges. Cox refused a lengthy plea offer and the case went to trial.
- Final disposition: Jury verdict guilty on multiple aggravated assault charges, reckless endangerment and two counts of attempted homicide. Acquitted on other related charges and sentenced to lengthy prison term.
- Case significance: Given the nature of the charges, this was a challenging case from the start. I had a positive relationship with most of the police who worked in the area at the time, and although everyone involved understood the job required, a case like this alters relationships. An officer's life had almost been lost, a mother's son faced life imprisonment, and the media glare was bright especially because the officer's vest had failed to stop the bullet. The prelim itself was atypical. The client interview and case prep were necessarily extensive and I accomplished the goal of creating a lengthy record. The facts and the history of the defendant made a plea deal unlikely and I was asked to second the case during trial.
- This case was significant to me because of what I learned. Thanks to the lead attorney I was involved in every aspect of the case. I participated in everything from motions to jury selection, from discovery review to witness prep, and finally to developing the closing argument and preparing the client for all eventualities. The defense that was offered was a challenge to present, and ultimately for the defendant it was not successful. Given the pain that resonated throughout the courtroom, in the end the only thing that did work was the system. Our client had a zealous defense, presented to a jury of his peers, overseen in a fair and transparent manner by the court, and was found guilty.

Case #3: In Re: R.S.

- Case citation: Juvenile delinquency case and special education representation in dispute with school district
- Name of Court and Judge: Court of Common Pleas of Butler County, the Honorable Thomas Doerr

- Party you represented: R.S.
- Nature of your participation: Attorney on special education dispute and the delinquency petition
- Dates of trial period: October 2012-February 2013
- Additional party counsel: District Attorney Richard Goldinger, Russell Karl
- Capsule summary: R.S. engaged our firm originally to assist on a special education dispute with his school district. R.S. had a long history of behavioral support needs and crippling anxiety that impacted his learning and inclusion in his home school. His issues were compounded by the inability of the school district to consistently provide a TSS even though it was clearly part of his IEP (Individualized Education Program). R.S. was transferred from his home district to an approved private school, where the lack of appropriate support continued to plague his academic progress. This was made worse when due to an anxiety attack in the middle of class, R.S. left his seat and crawled under the teachers desk. The teacher contacted the central office who sent a staff member to pull him out from under the desk by his leg. This physical engagement was counter to his support plan and R.S. kicked back, eventually striking the school personnel in the face. An aggravated assault charge was filed. R.S. was ten years old at the time.
- Final disposition: Efforts to have this case withdrawn or handled as summary offense were unsuccessful. Court argument focused on the failure of school personnel to follow the behavioral support plan as developed by treating mental health providers was unsuccessful to persuade the ADA or the court. In order to avoid greater possible consequences, the client agreed to a consent decree with an admission provision. On the special education part of the case though we successfully obtained a new education placement to better serve the needs of our client.
- Case significance: I have thought of this case often over the years since it so strikingly represented the intersection between disabilities and the criminal justice system. We were fighting to ensure that our client had access to a free and appropriate public education as guaranteed to him through the IDEA, our state constitution, and in the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act, while at the same time fighting against an underfunded school system, underpaid support staff, and arguably a lack of understanding as to how disabilities manifest in relation to someone forming the mens rea to commit a crime.

Case #4: In Re: N.H.

- Case citation: Juvenile dependency case
- Name of Court and Judge: Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, the Honorable Judge Dwayne Woodruff
- Party you represented: CYF (Children, Youth, and Families)

- Nature of your participation: Assistant County Solicitor for the agency addressing dependency and participating in dual delinquency proceedings
- Dates of trial period: Case involvement 2008-13
- Additional party counsel: Barb Ramsey, parent advocate, Laura Maines, CASA, Al Burke, Child's GAL
- Capsule summary: N.H. was part of an extremely complicated and challenged family and court case. N.H. was found both dependent and delinquent, but due to his behavioral health and history of traumatic victimization, progress was difficult to maintain and long term success was not achieved.
- Final disposition: N.H. eventually successfully completed the delinquency obligations, but exited the dependency system against advice upon reaching the age of majority. N.H. subsequently discontinued educational pursuits and behavioral health treatment. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of all parties, N.H. has now spent significant time incarcerated in the adult system.
- Case significance: This case is significant to me because despite large scale agreement by all parties in the dependency and delinquency cases, and years of work by many, the system was not able to help N.H. reach his potential. N.H. was born into a family replete with generational abuse. N.H. suffered from neglect, sexual abuse, untreated mental health- yet I can easily picture N.H. smiling and laughing in our conversations. For better or worse, N.H. had grown accustomed to court, accustomed to us, and in some way the attorneys and advocates around that table formed a support network that N.H. did not otherwise have. But private placement after private placement rejected N.H. or N.H. even when he was accepted he was soon listed as failing to adjust. N.H. spent a full year at one point in WPIC waiting for a more suitable placement to be found. While no party gave up on N.H. and the court remained engaged, the clock never stopped ticking. N.H. aged out of the court system before we were able to provide him the stability he needed. Ultimately this case has stayed with me as a reminder of what is at stake on the individual level in Family Division cases. I take some solace in the fact that other members of N.H.'s family found success through court involvement, but for N.H., we just couldn't get there.

Case #5: M.M.

- Case citation: Juvenile dependency case
- Name of Court and Judge: Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, the Honorable Dwayne Woodruff
- Party you represented: CYF
- Nature of your participation: County solicitor for all dependency procedures
- Dates of trial period: Case involvement 2008-2013
- Additional party counsel: Sara Steeves, Kidsvoice, Barb Ramsey Parent Advocate

- Capsule summary: M.M. and siblings were part of a long running dependency case due to parental substance use, mental health and criminal activity. Parental reunification was no longer possible, so our goal was to find permanent family placement options. A willing and suitable family member who lived out of state which required completion of an interstate compact. The other state though was refusing to complete the process because the family option happened to be gay. I worked to still ensure child safety but to make sure discrimination would not keep the child from a loving, supportive home
- Final disposition: Interstate compact requirements made traditional case closure plans difficult. The child had to be transported back to Pennsylvania. After deliberation, the court agreed to send the child back to Texas and to close the case.
- Case significance: This case was significant to me because of the extraordinary effort made to find this child a home, and how the judge compassionately analyzed the case and exercised discretion to make the right decision in the child's best interest. We had to bring M.M. back Pennsylvania after months of stonewalling by the Texas agency. Case reviews kept piling up as our caseworker was not able to answer for the delay. Given the time periods involved in the case we were ordered to seek permanency. Finally, my client's counterpart physically had to walk out of their office and call the caseworker back to explain that the interstate compact work would never be completed because the uncle was gay. The interstate compact process ensured that the county met all legal and financial responsibilities for the care of the child. Our position was that the uncle was the last, best hope for a family option for M.M. On examination from the bench, M.M. tearfully detailed how the uncle helped with homework, came to school events, made breakfast and brought orange slices to the soccer games. It was an extremely emotional case involving a child who had an otherwise traumatic childhood. Thankfully, the judge agreed with our position and at last report the child and uncle have done amazingly well together. This case was a win.

14. If a substantial period of your practice has been before administrative boards, commissions or agencies during the past five years, identify the boards commissions, or agencies before which you have practiced and estimate percentages of practice time devoted thereto:

N/A

15. If a substantial portion of your practice has been before Appellate courts during the past five years, identify the Appellate Courts before which you have practiced and estimate percentages of practice time devoted thereto:

N/A

16. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, give dates and details, including the courts involved, whether elected or appointed, periods of services, and a description of the jurisdiction of each of such courts with any limitations upon the jurisdiction of each court indicating the time(s) that you were the subject of a Motion or Petition for Recusal.

No.

17. Have you ever held public office other than a judicial office? If so, give details including the office, whether elected or appointed and the length of service, giving details:

- 2007 won election for Mt. Lebanon Commissioner
- 2013 won special election to the state House
- 2014 won re-election to the state House
- 2016 won re-election to the state House
- 2018 won re-election to the state House (including election to Caucus leadership as the Allegheny County Delegation Chair)
- 2020 won re-election to the state House (including election to House leadership as the Minority Caucus Chair)
- 2022 won re-election to the state House (including election to House leadership as the Majority Whip)
- 2024 won re-election to the state House

18. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details including dates:

No.

19. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law or the holding of judicial or other public office? If so give details including dates:

Since graduating college and in addition to information provided in question 9:

- Certified substitute public school teacher, New Fairfield High School, New Fairfield, CT 1997
- Summer camp director, Camp Berger, Winchester Center, CT 1997

20. Are you now an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise?

- a. **If so, give details, including the name of your enterprise, the nature of the business, the title or other description of your position, the nature of your duties and the term of your service.**

N/A

- b. Is it your intention to resign such positions and withdraw from any participation in the management of such enterprises if you are elected and confirmed? If not, give reasons:**

N/A

- 21. Are you under any ongoing federal, state or local investigation or indictment for possible violation of a criminal statute? If so, give particulars:**

No.

- 22. Have you ever been charged or convicted of any violation of a local, state or federal law, any misdemeanor or felony, court martial, been granted immunity from prosecution, been held in contempt of court or been the subject of a final protection from abuse order? If so, give details. Do not include summary traffic offenses.**

No.

- 23. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? If so, give details:**

No.

- 24. Have you ever been sued by a client? If so, give particulars:**

No.

- 25. Have you ever been a party or otherwise involved in any other legal proceedings? If so, give the particulars. Do not list proceedings in which you were merely a guardian ad litem or stakeholder. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, a material witness, were named as a co-conspirator, a co-respondent, and any grand jury investigation in which you figured as a subject or in which you appeared as a witness.**

I am not sure that I qualified as a material witness given the type of testimony I provided and the availability of similar witnesses, but I was called by the defense in a theft case in 2009. It was not my impression that my testimony was critical to the outcome of the case, but I did take the stand and briefly answered questions from both sides. The defendant was acquitted of all charges.

- 26. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, give particulars:**

No.

27. Currently or within the past five (5) years have you suffered from any medical or other condition which could affect or impair your judgment, reliability, or ability to perform the essential functions of the judicial position you are seeking? If so, describe:

No.

28. Do any circumstances exist that would affect your ability to perform the function of the position you seek or fulfill the term of office? If so, please explain.

No.

29. Furnish one (1) writing sample that reflects your analysis of a legal problem or issue.

See attached.

30. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups. List chairmanships of any committees in bar associations and professional societies and memberships on any committees which you believe to be of particular significance (e.g. judicial section committee, disciplinary committee, grievance committee).

I am a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

31. List your experiences in teaching and lecturing, including law school, continuing legal education and to non-legal audiences.

- As previously mentioned, I was a public school high school history teacher and I was a property law instructor for a semester..
- As a legislator, I host an annual Disability and Mental Health Summit, which has become the largest collection of related resources in western PA. For most self-advocates and supportive families, navigating the system and finding resources can be very challenging. My event brings resources and informative educational sessions under one roof and, given the economic limitations of so many in this arena, there is no cost to attend. I have participated as a speaker in many of our sessions and legislative panels over the years, most of which were available for continuing education credits. Last year's Summit had over 1,300 people in attendance and this year's event will be on May 8-9th at CCAC's north side campus.
- In addition to the Summit, I have hosted over two hundred community events through my district office in a variety of formats. Topics that I have discussed include: indigent defense, juvenile justice, kids and firearm safety, new mom's mental health, grandparents raising grandkids, Alzheimer's and dementia, human trafficking, fentanyl impact, smart homes and privacy, the legal impact of turning 18 (an event we have hosted with the assistance of the ACBA), and many others.

32. List all organization other than bar associations, professional associations or societies, of which you are or have been a member, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations:

I have been a member of the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department and have earned honorary retiree status.

33. List any honors, prizes, awards, or other forms of recognition which you have received (including any indication of academic distinction in college or law school) other than those mentioned in the foregoing questions.

Awards for Advocacy for People with Disabilities

- Achieva, Excellence in Legislation, 2014
- Watson Institute, Community Based Vocational Experiences Business Partner, 2024
- Unique Source, Champion Award, 2023
- The Peal Center, Disability Advocacy Champion, 2013
- Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association, Legislative Leadership Award, 2015
- Pittsburgh Local Task Force, Community Partner Award, 2017
- Autism Connection, Special Honoree, 2018
- Pennsylvania School Counselors Association, Legislator of the Year, 2019
- Arc of Pennsylvania, Legislator of the Year, 2019
- Mental Health America, Legislative Award, 2021

Service Awards

- Mt. Lebanon Fire Department, Medal of Merit, 2011
- United Steelworkers, State Honoree Award, 2019
- Honorary Life Membership Pennsylvania PTA, 2016
- Duquesne University, Small Business Association Certificate of Appreciation for supporting Veteran Businesses, 2022
- Allegheny-Fayette Labor Council, Father Jack O'Malley Social Justice Award, 2023
- Catholic University, Columbus School of Law, Marathon Award for community service, 2002
- Catholic University, Columbus School of Law, Extra Mile Award for community service, 2001

34. State any other information which may reflect positively or adversely on you or which you believe should be disclosed.

N/A

35. Why do you wish to become a justice or judge? What special strengths do you feel you possess that would particularly well qualify you for such a position?

I want to become a judge because a good judge can make a difference, because a good judge is necessary to our system, and because after a decade of being in court almost daily and a decade of writing law, I believe that I offer a unique combination of skills, knowledge, and experience that can appropriately balance the cases and issues that are finding their way into our judicial system.

I believe that a good judge allows attorneys to present their case and creates and maintains the appropriate courtroom environment that allows them to do so. A good judge has knowledge of the law, but not an ego in administering it. A good judge knows temperance, but does not dissuade passionate representation. A good judge understands that the validity of their rulings is dependent more upon faith in the system rather than the mere stroke of any pen. A good judge accepts responsibility for making a tough decision and does so in a timely, yet thoughtful manner.

I wish to become a judge because I believe I can do that, and that I have a record of providing such service.

I am proud of my decade-plus service as a public defender and county solicitor, where I benefited from the perspective of representing clients as a PD on basically the same allegations that I later brought against parents for neglecting their children. I am also proud of my time as a legislator, where I have been an active member of the Judiciary Committee, winning awards for my work on disability and mental health issues, and deepening my understanding of the court system and the issues that most commonly bring people before the bench. The unique path of my legal career has made me a better attorney, and will make me a thoughtful and well-grounded judge.

Being a judge is not easy, and being a good judge takes effort, reflection, and practice. All of my experience- both personal and professional- has led me to this point. As a lawyer devoted to public service, I believe that I will serve on the bench with distinction, dispensing equal and impartial justice; treating all with dignity, respect, and empathy; and working hard and humbly every day to make my courtroom one where all know that they will get a fair hearing. A good judge makes a difference in people's lives, and that's why I want to do it

36. What do you consider a significant achievement in your life outside your profession?

Outside my professional life and my family, a significant achievement in my life was completing my year of service in the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program. As the eldest child of immigrant parents my family had impressed upon me that we were lucky to be in this country and it was incumbent upon us to give something back. I originally thought my

military service would accomplish that, but that was cut short due to injury. AmeriCorps though gave me another chance to wear a flag on a uniform and sweat for our country. The NCCC was described as a domestic Peace Corps, and for a year I served as Team Leader of a diverse group of young adults from across the nation. We completed projects with the Red Cross responding to a flood disaster in Ohio, we built homes with Habitat for Humanity in rural Virginia, and we ran an after school tutoring program for students having a tough time in DC. This year of service changed my life and has always been one of my proudest achievements.

37. Please identify specific efforts you have made, or been involved with, to support equality and inclusion in the legal profession.

As a state representative I have made equality and inclusion a key part of my legislative work- especially in relation to disability and mental health- and I have worked as a member of House leadership to diversify our hiring and contracting both in and out of the Capitol building. This included us redefining accommodations, modernizing assistive technology options, and expanding hiring outreach. As a Commissioner on the state Employment First Commission I believe that all government agencies should be model employers in this area. I am also spearheading an initiative to improve parking accessibility in the Capitol and to install a fully accessible restroom. Admittedly this work is not meant to just improve inclusion in our legal hires, although clearly I think it will. But I have also made an effort to help grow the diversity of our legal staff in the House. Most specifically, last term I worked with a staff person to develop a supportive plan to help him pass the bar on his third attempt. With modest accommodations and his hard work he passed the bar and now works as a lawyer in our leadership offices. Sometimes the smaller, individual efforts can lead to the most impactful changes.

Daniel L. Miller

Type or print name

/s/ Daniel L. Miller

Signature

1/23/25

Date