

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE

I, Julie Capone, 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.

Julie Capone

Signature of Candidate

November 7, 2024

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 If I withdraw from the race, the rating will not be announced, and the questionnaires will not be published.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.

Julie Capone

Type or print name

Julie Capone

Signature

November 7, 2024

Date

ACBA JUDICIARY COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LAWYER APPLICANTS

I am seeking a rating for the following court:

- Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
- Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court
- Pennsylvania Superior Court
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court

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

Julie Capone

2. Date and place of birth.

October 4, 1974. Pittsburgh.

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

No

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 married Nicholas Creany on November 11, 2022.

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

Yes. The divorce decree was final on June 28, 2012 and docketed at FD 11-008532 in Allegheny County Common Pleas Court.

5. Have you served in the military? If so, No

- a) Give dates, branch of service, rank of rate and present status;

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

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

Duquesne University, B.A. (1997)
Duquesne University, Paralegal Certificate (1997)
University of Pittsburgh, School of Law, J.D. (2001)

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.

Pennsylvania—October 2001

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 websites you maintain or to which you know that your profile is shared.

Allegheny County District Attorney's Office
Allegheny County Courthouse
Room 303
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 350-4407

Facebook: Julie Capone
Instagram: julscapone
LinkedIn: Julie Capone

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;

N/A

- b) Whether you practiced alone and, if so, the addresses and the dates;

N/A

- 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; and,

N/A

- d) Any other relevant particulars.

N/A

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?

General Trial Unit (now known as the Community Impact Unit) (2002-03): This is the entry-level prosecution unit. I handled all aspects of prosecution (excluding preliminary hearings and appeals). My job responsibilities included, but weren't limited to, litigation of suppression motions and other miscellaneous pre-trial motions, motions practice, briefing, and trial before both judges and juries. Aside from my first trial (in which I was 1st chair), I was always the sole attorney stewarding all prosecutions assigned to me. Every day (except Fridays, in which cases usually weren't scheduled) I was assigned approximately 15 cases, almost all of which were scheduled as trials. The case types included, but weren't limited to, DUI, Aggravated Assault while DUI, Aggravated and Simple Assault, Robbery, Burglary, Theft, Access Device Fraud, Identity Theft, Firearms Possession, and Possession with Intent to Deliver (and Simple Possession of) a Controlled Substance.

Pittsburgh Municipal Court (colloquially known as City Court) (2003-04): I was part of a team of 3 prosecutors handling all preliminary hearings (excluding Homicides) filed before issuing authorities located within Pittsburgh city limits. Every day (except Fridays) approximately 75 cases were scheduled throughout the day. The case types included, but weren't limited to, DUI, Aggravated Assault while DUI, Attempt Homicide, Aggravated and Simple Assault, Robbery, Rape, Indecent Assault, Burglary, Theft, Access Device Fraud, Identity Theft, Firearms Possession, Possession with Intent to Deliver (and Simple Possession of) a Controlled Substance.

- b) Describe your typical clients and mention the areas in which you have concentrated your practice.

I've worked in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office for over 25 years, the last 23 of which as an Assistant District Attorney. In 2004, Stephen Zappala, Jr. created the Elder Abuse Unit, through a grant, which focuses exclusively on prosecution of crimes committed against seniors. I was the first and only prosecutor assigned to the unit during its infancy. I now oversee the unit.

Similar to my work in the General Trial Unit (see above), I handle all aspects of prosecution. However, in Elder Abuse, we are also required to approve most Elder Abuse cases (by local rule). Additionally, I routinely counsel police at the investigative level and, in select cases, I steward prosecutions from inception (including the preliminary hearing) until (and excluding) appeal.

I'm responsible for stewarding prosecutions of all crime types, including, but not limited to, Homicide, Attempt Homicide, Aggravated and Simple Assault, Robbery, Rape, Indecent Assault, Terroristic Threats, Neglect of a Care-Dependent Person, Burglary, Theft, and Embezzlement. Most of these cases are emotionally challenging and involve nuances, legal or otherwise, understood only by someone specializing in prosecutions of the type. Prosecution of these cases requires a special skill set, sensitivity, and knowledge of particular laws, appellate authority, and rules of evidence and procedure. Because of the fragility of senior victims, a delicate touch is required.

While I maintain a busy court calendar, I train and counsel junior prosecutors on how to handle Elder Abuse prosecutions. Additionally, I spearhead community outreach aimed at preventing Elder Abuse (and in rare cases, other crimes). In this capacity, I work closely with the District Attorney's Senior Justice Advocates and its civilian network (nicknamed the "Fraud Squad"), the Area Agency on Aging and its Protective Services Division, and other stakeholders. We've conducted many senior fairs, conferences, meetings, and other events to connect seniors with resources and train/educate them on how to recognize and prevent elder abuse and other scams targeting seniors.

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;

Regularly

- b) What percentage of these appearances was in:

1. Federal courts: 0%
2. State courts of record: 90%
3. Other courts: 10% (Magisterial District Court)

c) What percentage of your litigation was:

1. Civil: 0%
2. Criminal: 100%
3. Family: 0%
4. Orphans' Division: 0% (I've never represented anyone in this division. However, sometimes my prosecutions overlap with Orphans' Court issues or litigation. When that's the case, I observed Orphans' Court proceedings. I'm also knowledgeable about guardianships and Court Administration has solicited my feedback regarding systemic changes within the division, including guardianship tracking programs.)

d) State the number of cases in courts of record you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel or associate counsel.

Approximately 40-50

e) What percentage of these trials were:

1. Jury: 30%
2. Non-jury: 70%

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

- a) Whether your appearances in court were more or less frequent;

N/A

- b) Any significant changes in the percentages stated in your answers to question 11(b), (c) and (e); and,

N/A

- 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.

No.

13. Describe five of the most significant litigated matters which you personally handled (give the citations if the cases were reported and docket numbers if unreported) by providing a capsule summary of each case and a succinct statement of what you believe to be the particular significance of the case; the party or parties whom you represented; the name of the Court, Judge and contact information if known of counsel for any other party; your role in the litigation; and the final disposition.

In all the following cases, I represented the Commonwealth in Allegheny County Common Pleas Court. All cases were tried before juries and all those juries returned guilty verdicts. I was the sole prosecutor in all cases, except as noted in the 5th listed case.

1. Commonwealth v. Vito Pelino (CC201102578)

The Defendant was convicted of First Degree Murder and Abuse of a Corpse. The Honorable Edward Borkowki presided over the trial, and Patrick Thomassey ((412) 824-2055) was defense counsel.

Facts: The defendant stabbed the victim (72 times) to death and dismembered his body into 6 parts. He then threw his body over a cliff to conceal the evidence and have a chilling effect on the investigation. The defendant was an avid ninja enthusiast, and a search of his residence produced such weapons and other similar material. The motive related to the defendant watching the victim dance with his sister at a bar. Also, the defendant was white and the victim black. Evidence and testimony suggested the defendant harbored racist beliefs and the crime was motivated by such beliefs. The victim also suffered from some mental disabilities.

Significance: The trial was very emotional, and the tension was palpable. While the

facts recited above are ghastly, there were many graphic photos published, and much stressful testimony taken. It wasn't easy for me, personally, to present the case and be exposed to the evidence. What's more, I could see the pain in the eyes of the victim's family, who watched the same every day of the 4-day trial. I had to strike a balance between presenting the evidence and showing compassion for the victim's family who were being exposed to the same evidence. I think I was able to do that here. The victim's family was most happy with my performance and the outcome. For some time after, I kept in regular contact with them.

2. Commonwealth v. Kenneth Prysock (CC200615558)

The Defendant was convicted of Robbery, Robbery of a Motor Vehicle, and Criminal Trespass. The Honorable Anthony Mariani presided over the trial, and Aaron Sontz was defense counsel.

Facts: The defendant carjacked several senior citizens. In one incident, he twisted an elderly woman's arm so hard he broke it.

Significance: Trial took several days and being in and getting to court was a hardship for many of the victims. The victims were also terrified of the court system and everything involved with litigation. I learned the network of people who support litigators is invaluable. For me, I credit the victim advocates, police, clerical staff, and others who help victims navigate the criminal justice system. Here, the victim advocates did a remarkable job supporting the victims throughout the trial and allowing me to spend much of my time focusing on the trial. The advocates arranged for transportation for the victims and accompanied and supported them throughout the trial, even while they testified. The advocates contributions are a reminder of the importance of treating crime victims with compassion. I also recognize litigation is almost always a team effort.

3. Commonwealth v. Billy Jo Richter (CC201603360)

The defendant was convicted of First Degree Murder, Robbery, Burglary, and 2 counts of Assault of a Law Enforcement Officer, 2 counts of Aggravated Assault, and 5 counts of Recklessly Endangering Another Person. The Honorable Jill Rangos presided over the trial, and Now Magisterial District Judge Lisa Caulfield ((412) 646-1837) was defense counsel.

Facts: The defendant went to the victim's (his elderly uncle) house to steal his guns. Since the victim was home, the defendant held him hostage. The victim called 911 and

his conversation with the defendant was recorded. The recording captures a gunshot from the defendant shooting the victim in the stomach. The victim screams and pleads with the defendant to spare his life. Upon arrival of police, the defendant shot the victim in the head, killing him. An hour-long standoff with police culminated with a shootout. The defendant shot at police, who returned fire. Police then deployed a robot into the house, to confirm it was safe for their entry. Police then entered and arrested the defendant who was wounded by their gunfire.

Significance: Listening to the 911 call of the victim begging for his life was heart wrenching. Everyone listening was moved by what they heard. That includes, but isn't limited to the victim's family, me, court staff, the judge, and even defense counsel. While litigation is an adversarial process, the advocates (i.e. lawyers) and everyone else involved are human and no one is immune from emotions of the like. Regardless of what role we all play in the justice system, it's important to empathize with all the stakeholders and participants in litigation.

4. Commonwealth v. Kenneth Parrotte (CC201203276)

The defendant was convicted of Indecent Assault of a Minor, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Corruption of Minors, and Indecent Exposure. The Honorable Donna Jo McDaniel presided over the trial, and Kathleen Miskovich (412-350-1471) was defense counsel.

Facts: The Defendant sexually assaulted his six-year-old granddaughter over a several-month period.

Significance: This was one of the rare exceptions where I prosecuted a case in which the victim wasn't elderly. However, the victim wasn't any less vulnerable than the senior victims I'm accustomed to. Child sex assaults are some of the most emotionally charged of any cases in the courts. Even selecting a jury on such cases is exhausting and time-consuming, as it was here. Many prospective jurors have visceral responses to the charges, not to mention the alleged conduct. Despite this, the victim had to endure cross-examination from defense counsel. Defense counsel did a masterful job balancing the defendant's right to effect assistance of counsel, while demonstrating compassion toward the victim. The jurors respected her for this. Of course, everyone has a job to do and particular interests to advance, and it's important they are provided the appropriate platform. The court recognized this and gave defense latitude to provide adequate representation and administer a full and fair cross-examination of the victim.

5. Commonwealth v. Rodell Surratt (CC200316151)

The defendant was convicted of Attempt Homicide, 3 counts of Aggravated Assault, Carrying a Firearm without a License, 6 counts of Recklessly Endangering another Person, and Conspiracy. The Honorable John Reilly presided over the trial, and the defendant was represented by Douglas Sughrue (412-391-1629) who replaced Michelle Collins mid-trial. A 2nd chair assisted me, because my arm was casted following surgery.

Facts: The defendant shot the victim (a young woman) at least 8 times the day before she was scheduled to testify for the Commonwealth in a prosecution of the defendant's friend. Her 5-year-old son was also shot. Both survived and testified against the defendant, in my trial.

Significance: Writing the above summation brings back memories of how terrible the facts alone were. If the facts weren't striking enough, the procedural posture makes the case even more remarkable. The defendant and his counsel had an acrimonious relationship throughout the pendency of the case, marked by many public arguments, particularly in front of prospective jurors during selection.

During jury selection in Criminal Division, prosecutors sit directly across from both defense counsel and the accused at a small table while the prospective juror sits at the head of the table. I was approximately 3 feet from the defendant here. The defendant tried to intimidate me and defense counsel by staring at us and making inappropriate comments to both of us.

After opening statements, the defendant screamed at the judge, slapped his counsel across her face, and tried to flip the table he shared with defense counsel. Of course, defense counsel withdrew, and new counsel was appointed, but the case continued without delay.

While defense counsel was my adversary, we are colleagues and friends. While we have jobs to do in the courtroom, we're all still people who care about each other and their well-being. I comforted defense counsel in the immediate aftermath of this attack and offered support beyond that. Defense counsel offered me the same support throughout the trial and called me to check on me throughout the trial.

(See my writing sample for more details about this case.)

14. If a substantial period of your practice has been before administrative boards, commissions or agencies during the past ten 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 ten 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 court 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 judicial office? If so, give details, including the office, whether elected or appointed and the length of your service, giving details.

No

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.

Intern, Hon. Lawrence J. O'Toole, 5th Judicial District (May-August 1999)
Elder Law Clinic (Pitt Law) (supervised by Professor Martha Mannix) (provided pro bono legal services to low-income seniors)

Bankruptcy Paralegal at McGrath and Associates, P.C.

Aide to nurse's aide at Presbyterian Nursing Home

Aide at Riverview Children's Center (daycare center)

Cashier at the Boyce Park Wave Pool concession stand

News Paper Courier, The Advance Leader

20. Are you now an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? No

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.

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

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

No

22. Have you ever been charged or convicted of any violation of a local, state or federal law, any misdemeanor or felony, court martialled, 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 details.

No

25. Have you ever been a party to 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 co-conspirator or a co-respondent and any grand jury investigation in which you figured as a subject or in which you appeared as a witness.

Capone v. Rivers Casino, Scott Scherer, Dennis McCurdy, et al:

This case is pending. My friend was involved in a contentious child custody case with her ex-husband. I was with my friend at the casino. Surveillance videos were

subpoenaed pursuant to the child custody case. The videos were used to view text messages my friend and I were sent. Those messages were obtained by my friend's ex-husband from his lawyer and disclosed to other civilians. We alleged those messages were obtained in violation of the Wiretap Act and other applicable law(s). The lawsuit is pending.

Commonwealth v. Michael Dunham

In 2009, I was the victim of a violent road rage incident by the defendant in 2009. A jury convicted the defendant of Simple Assault by Physical Menace, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, and False Reports.

Capone v. Frank Bonaroti

There were structural problems and water infiltrating my basement that weren't adequately disclosed or redressed prior to our possession. I received a judgement in my favor following a bench trial.

Capone-Shaw v. Leah Cataldi:

I was injured in a 2007 car accident. The case was resolved out-of-court.

Robert Shaw and Julie Capone v. William Rodgers

My prior residence was flooded because of a nearby, active construction site. The case was resolved out-of-court.

Capone v. Lewis

In 2000, I sought a PFA against a person I had been in a prior relationship with.

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 the details.

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. Please also identify any leadership role you have held in such groups.

Allegheny County Bar Association (2001-present)
Criminal Litigation Section
Judiciary Committee—Chair 2022-23, Vice Chair 2021-22, Member 2020-21)
Judicial Excellence Committee—Treasurer (2023)
Board of Governors (2024-Present)
Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County (September 2024-Present)
Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (2001-present)

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

Elder Abuse CLE (2 credits) (Sponsored by the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office)
Elder Abuse Presentation for the ACBA Elder Law Committee
Elder Abuse Presentation on Prevention and Scams given for the Area Agency on Aging

32. List all organizations 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.

Board of Directors, Center for Victims of Violence and Crime (now known as the Center for Victims) (2018)
O'Hara Township Democratic Committee (2023-present)
Personal Care Risk Committee, Area Agency on Aging
Student Bar Association, Vice President (The University of Pittsburgh School of Law)
MS Society
Rivers Club, Pittsburgh (2012-present)

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 answers to the foregoing questions.

On behalf of the District Attorney's Office, I accepted an Allegheny County Council proclamation for Elder Abuse prosecution and prevention (2024)

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

I have always been an extremely compassionate and empathetic person. I endeavor to see issues from everyone's perspective. I do that whether I'm at work, empathizing with a victim or an accused person; waiting in line at the grocery store, commiserating with a cashier who may have just been embarrassed by a rude customer; or connecting with a waitress who is finishing a long and stressful shift at a restaurant. I try to always treat everyone with respect, regardless of their social or financial status.

Regardless of the context in which you meet someone, it may be the only time you ever speak with that person. For some people, a polite and positive experience (regardless of how short) can uplift their spirits and the opposite type of experience can ruin their day. I've struck up conversations with total strangers countless times, which also leaves me feeling good.

My husband talks frequently of his grandfather and the positive influence he had on my husband. He tells me 2 things that resonate with me. His grandfather told him "it doesn't cost a dime to say hello to someone." He also likes to recount a story in which his grandfather took a call from a telemarketer in the late 90's, when telemarketing calls were as pervasive as the election text messages we all got this fall. His grandfather left the room for what seemed like a long time to take the call. When he returned, they learned he had been speaking with a telemarketer. They asked his grandfather why he let the conversation last as long as it did. He replied, "Awe, they're just doing they're job."

I love both these stories. The latter is such a great lesson for a judge. Judges should be patient and let the attorneys do their job. Lawyer often praise judges who "let them try the case." If I'm fortunate enough to be elected, of course, I won't be right all of the time. However, I will "let the lawyers try the case," and empathize with all stakeholders in the proceeding.

Those stakeholders usually don't want to be in court. Rather, they're compelled to come to court when bad things happen to them. That can be when they're a crime or personal-injury victim. And in the case of an accused, they may have made the worst mistake of their life or found themselves wrongly accused. Whether they are a victim or an accused, their case is the most important thing in the world to them, and they may never

be in a courtroom again. Of course, not everyone will leave court happy, but it's important the litigants feel they were heard and understand how and why the court rules the way it does.

35. Why do you wish to become a Justice or Judge? What strengths do you possess that would particularly well qualify you for such a position?

I'm privileged to have devoted my entire life to public service. To many the practice of law is business, with financial implications and undertones. I never have to worry about that in my line of work. I love being a prosecutor, because my job is to do the right thing. The right thing differs from day-to-day.

For example, in one situation, I might spend much of my day working with the Area Agency on Aging to identify resources for a family in need. Another situation might require me to work to get an accused into a diversionary court, such as Mental Health, Drug, or Veterans Court, so much needed supervision and specialized resources can be rendered. Many of those cases have happy endings that include the accused and victim reuniting. Any yet other cases, I might withdraw entirely because the allegation lack prosecutorial merit or there are other reasons withdrawal is warranted.

Of course, not everyone leaves court happy, but my job's not to please everyone. It is to do justice. Sometimes the skill set required to do justice comes with experience, learning, and understanding. And sometimes the right thing isn't obvious, even after 23 years of prosecutorial experience. It might be revealed by opposing counsel's exercise of zealous advocacy. Or it might manifest itself from a victim or witness interview. Occasionally police or advocates might expose it. Many times, it's not a binary choice. Rather, I must think outside the box and construct creative solutions.

The ability and moral compass necessary to do the right thing in a court matter is the quintessential job qualification of a judge. I've had 23 years of experience perfecting my craft, i.e. doing the right thing. Much like my tenure as a prosecutor, my judicial decision making wouldn't be motivated by pleasing people, avoiding work, or shying away from a difficult decision or complex matter. I will always let my moral compass guide me to the right thing.

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

I'm a devoted wife, daughter, sister, aunt, godmother, and fur mother. I was also an

enormously committed granddaughter and niece, but, unfortunately, I have neither grandparents nor my aunt anymore. I'm extremely protective and fiercely loyal to my friends and family. Anyone who knows me, knows when I'm your friend, you have a loyal friend to the end. Because of my devotion to those close to me, I've built incredible relationships that have withstood the test of time. These relationships are sometimes difficult and require much work. And sometimes the closer the relationship, the more work that's required. Having these close, amazing relationships with my family and friends is absolutely a significant achievement to me and something I'm incredibly proud of.

Additionally, over the years, I've rescued a number of pets. Some of these pets were in animal shelters. At one point, I had 3 cats and 2 dogs, several being from rescue shelters. Sometimes shelter pets come with emotional baggage from the abuse they've suffered. They require much attention to make them feel at home and integrate them into the family. Caring for shelter pets requires loads of work, and I consider my work to be an accomplishment. Because of my love for animals, I've also been a financial supporter of local and national shelters and organizations. Additionally, I've attended and supported fundraising efforts, galas, and dinners for this cause.

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

I served on the Allegheny County Bar Association's Judiciary Committee and chaired it in my last year. Amongst other goals, we strived to promote a diverse bench and impressed upon the candidates we interviewed the existence and ramifications of the implicit bias that exists in the criminal justice system. We made this one of our highest priorities. During that time, I was on placed on the Judiciary's sub-committee in which the stated mission was to revise the Bar Association's bylaws to advance this goal.

Additionally, I'm a member of the Criminal Litigation Section Committee. We established a sub-committee to address racial disparities in Allegheny County's criminal justice system. We hope the sub-committee's work and our work in the Criminal Division permeates other Allegheny County court divisions and spearheads widespread change throughout the 5th Judicial District.

The undersigned certifies that the statements made in this questionnaire are true, complete and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief and are made in good faith.

Julie Capone

Type or print name

Julie Capone

Signature

November 7, 2024

Date

4889-3368-4484, v. 1