

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

**JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE**

I, Carmen L. Robinson, 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.

*Carmen L. Robinson*

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Signature of Candidate

12/25/24

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 If I withdraw from the race, the rating will not be announced, and the questionnaires will not be published.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

Carmen L. Robinson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type or print name

*Carmen L. Robinson*

12/24/24

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**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.

**Carmen L. Robinson**

2. Date and place of birth.

**08/25/1968 Pittsburgh, PA**

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've been separated 8 years. I married 12/31/07. Paul Brown.**

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

**University of Pittsburgh 1986-1989 Ba Dean's List  
Duquesne University School of Law 2002-2005**

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—Admitted 2005  
PA Western District Court**

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.

**84 Roberts Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 Gray & Robinson Attorneys At Law.**

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;

**Judge Dwayne Woodruff--1/2/06 – 12./30/09-- 1/3/12- 6/5/14  
Judge Kim Clark—4/4/16---6/28/20**

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

**2005- 2016 Solo**

- 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,

**!/2/17 to Present with Gray & Robinson**

- d) Any other relevant particulars.

**Adjunct professor At Kline School of Law Duquesne University**

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?

**When I was in solo practice, I took a variety of cases both criminal and civil.**

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

**When I took on a death penalty case Elbert R. Gray teamed up to become partners. Prior to that case we had an agreement to work together when either of us took on a homicide case. Thereafter, our partnership took on mostly homicide cases and serious violent felonies.**

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; **I appear in court regularly**

- b) What percentage of these appearances was in:

1. **Federal courts: 10%**
2. **State courts of record: 80%**
3. **Other courts: MDJ 10%**

- c) What percentage of your litigation was:

1. **Civil: 10%**
2. **Criminal: 85%**
3. **Family: Law Clerk**
4. **'Orphans' Division: 5%**

- 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.

**80 cases- 50% lead**

- e) What percentage of these trials were:

**1. Jury: 25%**

**2. Non-jury: 75%**

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

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

**Frequent**

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

**No**

- 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.

**Commonwealth v. Devante King CR-0013382-2017, J. Mariani--Devante & Brother was**

charged with 1st degree murder. Devante's brother was captured by video shooting the victim. Ultimately, Devante was convicted of Felony murder, however the brothers received the same life sentence. The issue was the constitutionality of the same sentence for different culpability. Counsel & Elbert Gray split representation 50-50.

**Commonwealth v. Hayden-- CP-02-CR-0010092-2019, J. Borkowski—1<sup>st</sup> murder trial where Miranda rights were waived by a noticeably intoxicated defendant. The jury said it was deadlocked, and Judge Borkowski gave the Allen Charge and Mr. Hayden was convicted of third-degree murder. Counsel & Elbert Gray split representation 50-50.**

**Commonwealth v. Day-- CP-02-CR-0010015-2018, J. Howsie—The Commonwealth set out to prove Felony Murder derived from a burglary, Mr. Day, soon after was charged with 4 additional burglaries. Mr. Day sought without counsel to exchange information on a cold murder case of a senior citizen where burglary was the motive. However, after 18 hours of interrogation and becoming drug sick (heroin addict), Mr. Day repeated words of culpability that detectives had provided. Mr. Day provided names of suspects but was the only defendant ever charged. Counsel filed a suppression motion of the confession, on the day of that hearing the Commonwealth offered 10-50 years for the Murder/Burglary case and the additional 4 separate burglaries. The Defendant had a prior record score of 5. The Client had 5 years in the County jail and accepted the Plea offer. Counsel & Elbert Gray split representation 50-50.**

**Commonwealth v. Hill-- CP-02-CR: 009072-2020, J. EVASHAVIK-DILUCENT—Mr. Hill was charged with 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder of an infant that was killed by a stray bullet, however not fired by Mr. Hill. The Commonwealth argued transferred intent/Set the circumstances in motion. Mr. Hill was convicted of Manslaughter. Counsel & Elbert Gray split representation 50-50.**

**Commonwealth v. Dinkins-- CP-02-CR-0004459-2021, J. Sasinoski—Mr. Dinkins was charge with Robbery with a gun enhancement- The issue was Confirmation Bias and credibility of the witness. Mr. Dinkins was found not guilty. Counsel handled case exclusively.**

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.

NA

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.



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.

**Mayor City of Pittsburgh 2009  
Judge Common Pleas Court 2011**

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.

**Pittsburgh Bureau of Police-1989-2005 Attained the position of sergeant.**

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. **CEO of PLS Transportation**

We are a school bus company the exclusively transports disabled students

- 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.

**My son runs operations. I've always planned to pass the torch.**

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.

**No**

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.

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.

**I am a Member of The National Association of Defense Lawyers.**

**I am a Member of Pittsburgh Black Attorney Group**

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

**Adjunct Professor- Duquesne University Kline School of Law**

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.

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**

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.

**Dean's List, Top 10 Attorney Award for Pennsylvania, From the National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys.**

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

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?  
**One solid reason to consider becoming a Judge is to serve all communities by making the legal system work better for everyone. In making the system optimal, a judge takes on the responsibility of interpreting and applying the law impartially, this ensures public confidence in the legal system and protects the rights and freedoms of all individuals. The role would satisfy a purpose or a sense of fulfillment knowing my decisions can change lives, uphold justice, and contribute to the greater good. I live in a vulnerable community, and often represent marginalized people whose central complaint is the process such as not being heard and receiving equitable treatment.**

**I believe one strength is COURAGE. The practice of law is not for the faint of heart. I like to believe I stand up for what is right, even if it is not popular with public opinion. I argue to uphold the principles of the Constitution, even if those principles lead to a result that doesn't square with my personal values.**

**I am OPEN-MINDED, persuadable and love listening to good arguments or legal theory. I am patient and wait for all the facts before forming any opinion.**

**I have DIVERSE EXPERIENCE. I have over 15 years' experience in law enforcement, about 10 years as a Law Clerk and almost 20 years in Private Practice. I have been an Adjunct Law Professor for over four years. I believe all of those roles and experiences provide a 360-degree view and bring COMMON SENSE to the job as Judge.**

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

- 1. Raising my son to respect others and ensuring he would become a productive citizen.**
- 2. Through the practice of law, I was able to pay for his education, k-12 and then he received a full scholarship from Georgetown University.**
- 3. Running a transportation company that specializes in transporting special needs students, some so medically fragile, they must travel with a nurse.**

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

**I am the Supervising Attorney at the Re-Entry program (Duq. Law), which is a free pardon, expungement and sealing clinic. Most of the clients are poor. Often members of a marginalized community are overly policed and end up with charges such as Possession of**

**Marijuana, Disorderly Conduct, Retail Theft, and Lewd Behavior because of public urination. I assist clients with clearing their records so they might get jobs, some with the Court of Common Pleas, and Paralegals at large law firms. I have assisted quite a few law students who need to take the Bar as well as clients who want to enter the Police Academy. I've assisted law students of color with bar preparation. Finally, I have spoken many times at Pittsburgh Obama High School for career day.**

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.

Carmen L. Robinson  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Type or print name

*Carmen L. Robinson*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

12/27/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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