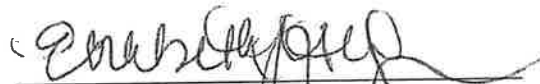


ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE

I, Elizabeth L. Hughes, 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.



Signature of Candidate

1/23/2025

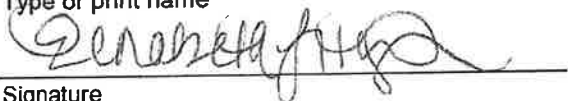
Date

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 If I withdraw from the race, the rating will not be announced, and the questionnaires will not be published.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

1/23/2025
Date

Elizabeth L Hughes
Type or print name

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.

Elizabeth Louise Hughes

2. Date and place of birth.

**DOB - August 4, 1971
Pittsburgh, PA**

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

N/A

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.

Single – Never been married.

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

Not applicable

5. Have you served in the military? **I have never served in the military.**
If so,

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

Not applicable

- b) Have you ever been rejected or released from the armed services for reasons other

than honorable? If so, give details.

Not applicable

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.

Wake Forest University – attended fall semester 1989. I did not return for spring semester due to academic reasons.

Westmoreland County Community College – January 1990 – May 1990, 4.0 GPA

Clarion University of Pennsylvania – August 1990 - December 1994; Bachelor of Science, Psychology, State Board of Governor Scholar.

University of Pittsburgh – took some classes after graduation, was briefly considering earning teaching certification

University of Pittsburgh School of Law – August 2001- May 2004, Juris Doctorate

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.

PA – Admitted 10/17/2005

Western District of PA – 12/2005

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.

UPMC Corporate Legal Department

US Steel Tower 600 Grant Street

Suite 5751

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

IG- elhesq

Facebook – Elizabeth L. Hughes

LinkedIn – Elizabeth L. Hughes

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;

Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Justin M. Johnson – Superior Court of Pennsylvania; September 2004- September 2005

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

**5732 Wilkins Ave
Apt 2L
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
September 2005 – April 2006**

**1382 Old Freeport Road
Suite 3AF
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
September 2007 – March 2013**

- 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,

UPMC CORPORATE LEGAL DEPARTMENT
US Steel Tower, 600 Grant Street, Floor 57, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
April 2017 - present
Senior Associate Counsel (June 2021 – present)
Associate Counsel (July 2018 – May 2021)
Assistant Counsel (April 2017 – June 2018)

RAPHAEL, RAMSDEN & BEHERS, P.C.
437 Grant Street, #1200, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
March 2013 – April 2017
Associate (Family Law)

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY LAW DEPARTMENT
445 Fort Pitt Blvd., Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
June 2007 – March 2013
Assistant Solicitor

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL (now THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY)
900 Locust Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15282
September 2009 – May 2013
Clinical Adjunct Professor

WILLMAN & ARNOLD, LLP (now WILLMAN & SILVAGGIO)
5500 Corporate Drive, #150, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
April 2006 – June 2007
Associate (toxic torts litigation)

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION
600 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
September 2005 – April 2006
Contract Attorney

SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
310 Grant Street, 26th floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
September 2004 – September 2005
Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Justin M. Johnson

PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS (PABLE)
Pennsylvania Judicial Center, 601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 3600, Harrisburg, PA
17120
February 2018 – November 2023
Senior Grader (started as Grader from Feb. 2018 to July 2022, and assumed the Senior
Grader position in July 2022)

d) Any other relevant particulars.

The PABLE position was a contract position that occurred twice a year for several weeks when bar exam was administered. The initial meeting was in person then the remainder of grading was remote.

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?

Since 2017, my practice has been as in-house counsel for UPMC, Pennsylvania's largest integrated health care delivery system and the second largest employer in the Commonwealth. I currently serve as primary counsel for three major hospitals, including two specialty hospitals (pediatric and women's health) and a level one trauma center. Additionally, I am the primary counsel for over 60 pediatric primary care outpatient offices and the lead counsel for the system's pediatric service line, providing legal guidance to all business units on issues related to the care of patients ages 0-18. In my role as in-house counsel, I regularly interact with various stakeholders including Allegheny County Office of Children Youth and Families ("CYF"), KidsVoice, and current judges in Family Division to ensure that children who are in the care of third parties or who have been adjudicated dependent or delinquent are able to receive the care they need in a timely and efficient manner.

From 2013 to 2017, I worked in private practice at Raphael, Ramsden & Behers, P.C. as an Associate Attorney representing family law clients and clients in various Orphans' Court proceedings, including guardianships, civil commitments, and expungement of civil commitments. It was during this time that I began to serve as outside counsel to UPMC for guardianship and other health law related matters.

I worked as an Assistant Solicitor from 2007 to 2013 for the County of Allegheny Law Department representing the Office of Behavioral Health and the Office of Intellectual Disabilities. In this capacity, I represented the County in Orphans' Court practice in thousands of involuntary commitment hearings, as well as numerous guardianship proceedings and represented the County in Department of Public Welfare administrative appeal hearings. I additionally represented the County's interests in proceedings for expungement of civil commitments, including at the appellate level and defended the County in Federal Court in §1983 claims. At the same time, I was able to engage in outside practice and represented private clients in various matters including some criminal and civil work, but most of my private clients during this period were family law clients. In my private capacity, I focused on family law (divorce, custody, support), as well as juvenile and dependency work.

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

My typical clients as in-house counsel are my corporate clients, which are the entities that I represent, and its leadership, including physicians and senior staff.

The bulk of my current practice is in health law, with general hospital counsel duties and other related responsibilities, such as contract drafting, some privacy, risk, medical staff credentialing issues, minors and minors' consent issues, and women's health.

Prior to becoming in-house counsel, my typical clients were individuals, including parents with custody issues, individuals who were seeking expungements or guardianships, or who had other domestic relations issues such as divorces, support issues, or any other combination of various family law or mental health/guardianship cases. Domestic Relations practice made up the bulk of my practice prior to my time as in-house counsel, along with significant practice in Orphans' Court in the area of mental health (involuntary commitments/MHPA) and guardianships.

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 appeared in court regularly from 2014 – 2017 until I went in-house at UPMC. Since then, I have appeared infrequently, but I am hands-on with outside counsel because of the nature of the cases that I am involved in when it is necessary for me to engage their assistance. I was responsible for litigating a case without the assistance of outside counsel in early 2024 as outside counsel was conflicted out and it was an issue that was unique enough that I was unable to secure another outside counsel to effectively litigate the issue.

- b) What percentage of these appearances was in:

1. Federal courts: <1%

2. State courts of record: **99%**

3. Other courts:

c) What percentage of your litigation was:

1. Civil: **<1%**

2. Criminal:

3. Family: **94%**

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.

e) What percentage of these trials were:

1. Jury: **0%**

2. Non-jury: **100%. The bulk of my practice was in Family and Orphans' Court Division, two of the four divisions in the Fifth Judicial District that do not have jury trials.**

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

a) Whether your appearances in court were more or less frequent;
Less frequent after becoming in-house counsel (after 2017).

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

Not applicable

- 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.

Not applicable

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.

Best v. Best, et al

1:15-cv-00081-DSC

Hon. David S. Cercone, U.S. District Court, Western District of PA (Erie)

Federal Question (Hague international child abduction case)

I represented Petitioner (Father), Joseph Best. Respondent (Mother) was represented by Edith Benson, Esq.

Mother and Father were divorced parents of two minor children. Parties resided and worked in Bermuda. The parties had a formal parenting agreement through the Bermuda courts which required a traveling party to obtain consent from the other party to leave the jurisdiction with the children and provide details of travel along with specified return dates. Mother provided Father with details of a trip to take children to Erie, PA to visit Maternal Grandmother and provided Father with details of her and the children's return travel dates. Mother subsequently refused to return the children to the home jurisdiction. Father subsequently became aware that Mother had left her employment, leased out her residence in Bermuda, obtained employment in PA, and had done so without Father's knowledge, with no intention of returning with the children. Given the available documentation and evidence, as well as the fact that Father, as the left-behind parent, had an existing order for shared custody in Bermuda, the decision was made to pursue the Hague Convention route. This approach offered more expedient remedies, avoiding the complexities of addressing custody factors as required by Pennsylvania law. I was required to litigate the action in Erie in the Western District of Pennsylvania. I was able to successfully secure the return of the children to Bermuda and obtain a judgment for counsel fees on behalf of my client.

Kiefner v. Al-Rammah

1831 WDA 2014, FD 09-007348, Hon. Alexander Bicket, Allegheny Co. Court of Common Pleas

- Family Division
Jurisdictional Issue

I represented Plaintiff in custody action, Hope Kiefner (Mother). Julie Colton, Esq. represented Defendant, Fawzi Al-Rammah (Father).

The case was heard on a one-day hearing and Plaintiff prevailed. Defendant appealed to Superior Court and the decision was affirmed. I did not conduct the hearing phase. This international custody case involved a jurisdictional dispute between Allegheny County and Saudi Arabia. With no relevant PA case law, we turned to the Third Circuit and notable case law from New Jersey. I led the initial research and pleadings, developing a strategy that argued against treating Saudi Arabia as a state under the UCCJEA “human rights exception” and opposing comity for court orders presented by the Father. This complex case was one of the most fascinating I have worked on and highlighted my passion for jurisdictional issues.

Hall v. Shipec

FD 09-002559, Hon. Kathleen Mulligan, Fmr. Judge Mark Tranquilli, Hon. Hugh McGough
Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas – Family Division
Custody and Child Support

I represented the Plaintiff, Andrew Hall (Father), in a custody and support case. The Defendant, Marlo Shipec (Mother), was *pro se*. I represented the Father in a custody trial before Judge Mulligan, resulting in an award of primary custody to the Father. There were various subsequent hearings on support and other custody issues. This case was significant as it tested my professionalism and demonstrated my ability to handle highly stressful situations. On one occasion, immediately following a support hearing, the Defendant directed offensive language, including a racial slur, towards me. I did not respond and instead reported the incident to the Sheriff, who addressed it appropriately. Although the situation was upsetting, I understood the importance of maintaining my professional conduct and reputation. This experience made it clear that such incidents may occur in this profession and that remaining calm is crucial.

Gigliotti v. Truex

FD 13-001156, Hon. Daniel Regan, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas – Family
Division
Custody Relocation Trial

I represented the Plaintiff, David Gigliotti (Father) in a relocation trial. The Defendant, Aimee Truex (Mother) was represented by Timothy Gricks, Esq.

The trial was noteworthy for several reasons. It was originally a two-day trial that turned into a five-day trial. There was extensive testimony from the custody evaluator and CYF. Additional testimony revealed that Mother had secretly taken the child to counseling for unsubstantiated sexual abuse claims. Despite Father being the more stable parent, he failed to meet his burden

that relocation was in the child's best interests as he provided no witnesses, not even his current wife, to support his case. At the end of the trial, the judge praised counsel for their exceptional representation, noting that both clients had been well represented regardless of the outcome. This case showed that being well-prepared and appearing suitable as the custodial parent is not enough to win without other key elements that the Court requires.

In Re: Petition of M.M. vs. Allegheny County Department of Behavioral Health and the Pennsylvania State Police

No. CC 250 of 2016, Hon. John A. Zottola, Hon. Michael E. McCarthy, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas – Orphans' Court Division

Petition for Expungement of Civil Commitment

I represented the Petitioner, M.M., in an action to expunge a civil commitment. Deron Gabriel, Esq. represented the County and John Herman, Esq. represented the PA State Police.

I represented the Petitioner in his original 303 civil commitment proceeding under the Mental Health Procedures Act, where I was able to get the petition dismissed. These actions to expunge the original 302 petitions are not a novel area of law, but they are significant for several reasons. First, there is not a lot of guidance regarding these cases and many attorneys, as well as judges, may be unfamiliar with this type of proceeding. It is a fluid area of law that can change based on the political composition of the higher courts or legislature and thus requires regular research and attention to new developments. Additionally, the only significant prohibition associated with a 302 is the restriction on owning or possessing a firearm, so there are ramifications that affect an individual's constitutional rights. However, the PA State Police are involved in these actions as well as other parties who can claim a strong interest in making sure that weapons do not fall into the hands of individuals who may be considered a danger to themselves or others. So, these cases are significant because they are not numerous, but judges must look past the competing political interests and other potential noise in these cases and apply the law. In this case, I represented the Petitioner through the first hearings before Judge Zottola and Judge McCarthy. I left the firm before the final hearing took place before Judge McCarthy. The court granted the expungement.

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.

I was a Senior Hearing Committee member for the Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board – District IV and as such I served as the presiding chair on hearing panels for attorneys facing disciplinary action or seeking reinstatement. I served on the Hearing Committee for a total of 12 years, serving as a Senior Hearing Member for 9 years. In my capacity as presiding chair, I chaired a 3-member panel, and we presided over matters relating to

attorney discipline and reinstatement matters. I was responsible for conducting pre-hearing conferences to hear any pre-conference motions, set scheduling orders, and make determinations regarding admission of evidence, stipulations, experts, and any other matters which required disposition or any other evidentiary issues or pre-hearing objections that required possible arguments or briefing prior to the hearing. I also conducted the hearing and made rulings on admissibility of exhibits and testimony.

When I worked in the County Solicitor's office, I also served on an appeals panel for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The panel was comprised of members from across the Commonwealth and we were tasked with deciding appeals from denials of Minority and Women owned Business status for transportation vendors. The panel met approximately quarterly in Harrisburg at the Turnpike Commission. I served on this panel for approximately 2 years, along with Rosalyn Guy-McCorkle, who invited me to serve and who is now the County of Allegheny Solicitor. She was at that time one of the Unit Supervisors in the Law Department.

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.

I have not had substantial appellate court practice in the past 10 years. However, I did occasionally practice before the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. I am unsure whether I have appeared before the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in the last 10 years, while I was working in private practice at Raphael, Ramsden & Behers, P.C., but I do know that I handled some appellate cases during that time. I appeared more often before the Superior Court when I was with the County Solicitor's Office.

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.

Yes.

Prior to attending law school I lived in Phoenix, AZ from 1995-2001:

Coordinator, Project BRAVE (City-wide Youth Violence Prevention Program), Parks and Recreation Department (At-Risk Youth Division) - City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ. 1997 – 2001

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Case Manager, ComCare, Tempe, AZ. 1996 -1997.

Recreation Programmer, Thunderbirds Teen Center, Parks and Recreation Department (At-Risk Youth Division) – City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ. 1995-1996.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Yes.

WDPA 02-02380-MBM

Bankruptcy Ch. 7 filed 8/29/02

Discharged- case closed on 1/23/03

MJ-05206-CV-0001141-2011

Merrick Bank Corp v. Hughes

Withdrawn 4/13/2012

MJ-05206-CV-0001089-2011

Capital One Bank v. Hughes

Withdrawn 1/130/2012

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.

Please see attached.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Michael T. Joyce, No. 47 DB 2009

Recommendation drafted from PA Disciplinary Board District IV Hearing Committee

re: Judge Michael Joyce. I was the most junior member of committee at the time and as such was responsible for drafting the opinion.

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

President – 2020 – 2021
President-Elect – 2019 – 2020
Board of Governors – 2012 – 2018
Judiciary Committee – 2009 - 2012
Homer S. Brown Division Chair – 2019 - 2020
Bench Bar Committee Vice Chair – 2018
Bench Bar Committee Chair – 2019
Nominating Committee Chair – 2019
Judicial Excellence Committee Chair - 2021

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

Clinical Adjunct Professor - Civil and Family Justice Clinic, Duquesne University Law School, September 2009 to May 2013

***Continuing Legal Education:**

6/2018 ACBA Bench Bar – In-House CLE panel
5/17/21 Practical Advice for In-House Attorneys
10/26/21 Hearing Committee Training – panel member – tips on conducting disciplinary hearings (Hershey, PA) (ethics)
1/14/22 PBA- “HIPAA is Not an Objection” – panel member (Philadelphia)
1/2022 ACBA – Law Student Networking Workshop – panel member (virtual)
6/2023 ACBA Bench Bar - Unprecedented: Complacency is not an option – WLD CLE panel
6/2023 ACBA Bench Bar – Third Party Orders – Family Law CLE panel
7/19/23 ACBA - Diversity in Bar Association Leadership – panel member
7/26/23 Hearing Committee Training – panel member – tips on conducting disciplinary hearings (Hershey, PA) (ethics)
1/21/25 PLDIC – panel to Pitt Law students on Interviewing Skills

I conduct regular one-hour trainings to UPMC hospital and outpatient clinical staff on Minors Consent issues.

I conduct regular one-hour legal Q&A sessions with the Child Advocacy Center at UPMC

Children's that covers issues related to subpoenas, release of records and requests for sensitive information, etc.

I often present upon request to law students, high school and middle school students and other groups.

When I was the ACBA President, I created the educational video series "Every Vote Counts 2020" during the Covid-19 pandemic. It was a non-partisan initiative to educate voters on how to properly request and complete their mail-in ballots. We had attorney volunteers' film different videos on various topics and filmed videos in both English and Spanish.

I also participated in several virtual community education panels to help educate the public about the ACBA Judicial Ratings during judicial elections in 2020.

***I do not have a full list of my CLE presentations prior to 2021.**

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.

University of Pittsburgh Law Alumni Board of Governors (President Emeritus) – member since 2005

University of Pittsburgh School of Law Board of Visitors – June 2024 to present

Achieva Family Trust Board – June 2022 to present

Neighborhood Legal Services Board (past)

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated – Life Member (initiated in 1992)
Girl Friends, 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.

Philip Werner Amram Award (ACBA) – 2024

New Pittsburgh Courier - 50 Women of Excellence – 2014

Class of 2004 President and Commencement Speaker - University of Pittsburgh School of Law

State Board of Governors Scholar – Clarion University of Pennsylvania

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

While the majority of my recent practice has focused on family law and health law, I possess comprehensive experience across all areas of law and have appeared before all divisions in Allegheny County. My criminal court experience includes representing clients in misdemeanor cases, expungements, and juvenile delinquency matters, with notable success in transferring adult charges to juvenile court for a client. I have also managed unique cases such as denial of gun permits and charges of unsworn falsification for clients unaware of prior civil commitments who attempted firearm purchases. Additionally, I have practiced in civil court as a toxic tort attorney, conducting depositions, drafting discovery documents, and presenting motions. My litigation experience extends to other counties, including handling divorce and custody trials in Mercer and Armstrong Counties, as well as representing multiple clients in Westmoreland and Butler Counties in various legal matters. In doing so, I had the opportunity to represent clients from all walks of life, from every socioeconomic and political background, of all different races and religions, sexual orientation and gender identity. Through this, I have been provided with the perspective of being able to listen to a client's unique circumstances and acknowledge that *each and every one* is different. Although everyone's circumstances and story may vary, they all seek the same fundamental principles when appearing before the Court: fairness, respect, courtesy, and a sense of being heard, irrespective of the outcome.

Additionally, my own experiences as an attorney of color and particularly as a Black woman, make me aware of the implicit bias that litigants of color and other diverse litigants experience in our Courts. We all have implicit biases, but I believe that these experiences equip me to better recognize my own biases and pause to recalibrate when I think I might be allowing those biases to influence my judgment.

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?

Beginning from my early experiences working as a Child and Adolescent case manager almost 30 years ago, I have sought ways to positively impact the lives of children and families. Whether it was a conscious or unconscious path at the time, the road has continually led me in the same direction. I want to use the years of experience, wisdom and leadership that I have gained to continue to be a champion of children and families and serve the citizens of Allegheny County as Judge for the Court of Common Pleas.

I believe that I am uniquely suited for the position of Judge as my depth and breadth of experience is significant. I have a background in mental health and prevention and intervention programming and was in the role of direct service provider when I worked as a Child & Adolescent Case Manager for ComCare and then as a Coordinator with the City of Phoenix. I worked directly with children and teens. I developed an anti-violence curriculum that was implemented in over 70 after school sites, youth centers, Boys & Girls Clubs and other facilities where we provided programming and supervised 6 youth counselors in facilitating this program. I also served on the city's Domestic Violence Task Force and was instrumental in helping to obtain a grant and draft informational tri-fold pamphlets that we placed in our recreation centers on how to develop a safety plan. As a result of these resources being available in our teen center where I worked, two of our participants and their mother were able to escape a domestic violence situation and get to safety in another state.

After my initial employment in private practice, I served in the County of Allegheny Law Department as an Assistant Solicitor, where I handled involuntary commitment hearings. These proceedings required me to think on my feet and be ready to make my argument and support the case based on a petition and a witness statement that I had obtained mere minutes prior to the hearing. I had to be intimately familiar with the Mental Health Procedures Act and strategic in my questioning. I also handled innumerable guardianships on behalf of the County, as well as administrative hearings and appearances in Superior Court. Because of the regularity with which I practiced in spaces involving mental health and guardianships, I became familiar with the resources in the community and the steps and processes necessary to obtain services and how difficult it could be for individuals trying to navigate these resources.

When I returned to private practice as a family law attorney, I saw the difficulty that *pro se* litigants can face when they try to navigate the court system on their own. I also litigated from the other side some of the types of cases in which I had previously represented the County. It provided a much different perspective and one that I welcomed so that I could continue to learn and grow as a lawyer. Immersing myself in the practice of family law honed my knowledge and my skills and I was able to take those skills into my role as in-house counsel and use those skills every day. My prior roles all informed the way that I was able to serve my clients and specifically address when there were mental health issues in a case or other issues relating to children or adolescents with which I had deep familiarity.

All these experiences are essential in making me highly qualified to serve the people of Allegheny County on the Bench. My combined 20 years of legal experience in government, private and health law practice, combined with my prior tenure as a direct human services provider make me uniquely positioned to identify the key stakeholders that should be brought to the table when we are trying to practically solve problems, increase efficiency in the Courts, and resolve cases. We all wish for more and unlimited resources to serve the litigants who appear before the Court and to assist the Court in its resolution or progression of cases. However, this is often not the case, and the litigants, counsel and Judges are constrained to

work within the confines of what is available. Because I have experience across all areas of practice, I have time and again successfully found ways to work collaboratively with entities like CYF, KidsVoice, the Child Advocacy Center, current Family Division judges, District Attorneys, and private counsel to find smart, logical solutions to problems to better serve the children and families of Allegheny County.

While the bulk of my practice has been in family division and that is where my true passion lies, I consider myself a true “servant leader,” like my mentor the Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark. My varied background qualifies me to serve in any division in which I would be called upon to do so. I have practiced in every division in the Fifth Judicial District, including Criminal Division, Civil Division, Family Division, both Adult and Juvenile, and Orphans’ Court Division. I have also appeared in Superior Court, where I was also a clerk, and practiced in Federal Court, appearing to litigate an international abduction case under the Hague Convention and on behalf of the County to defend civil rights claims brought on behalf of inmates in the county jail. My 12 years of experience as a Disciplinary Board Hearing Committee Member has provided me with the opportunity to obtain hands-on experience presiding over legal proceedings.

I am highly adaptable and can respond readily to a crisis with calm professionalism. This was most readily evident by the success of my tenure as ACBA President during the Covid-19 pandemic. My tenure occurred from July 2020 to June 2021, which was entirely during the pandemic. We were fully remote and the ACBA had to make difficult decisions regarding operations, finances and personnel. I was able to lead the Board or Governors as a practical problem solver, by insisting on transparency to our membership, being collaborative with the Board and hearing ideas and perspectives, but also by being decisive when necessary and not being afraid to make difficult decisions for the benefit of the organization and the membership. We emerged from the pandemic in the black, without staff layoffs, and having completed some significant projects and initiatives. I encouraged collaboration to work within the confines of what we had available to get things done and still make *progress*. I am confident that I have the necessary ability to listen to diverse perspectives and hear what people are saying and sharing but to also know when tough decisions must be made to move forward. All these attributes make me a highly capable candidate for the Court of Common Pleas.

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

In 2021, I was one of 32 women chosen globally for a year-long fellows’ program by the International Women’s Forum. Representing 10 countries, we attended enriching modules at INSEAD in France and Harvard Business School. I gained valuable insights and wisdom, and being among such accomplished women was an immense honor. My participation inspired me to run for judge.

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

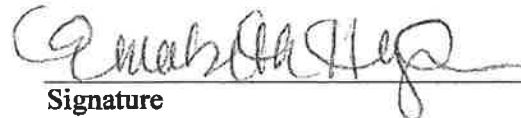
I regularly mentor law students and young attorneys from all backgrounds, but particularly those from backgrounds who are underrepresented in the legal profession. I have assisted in connecting these individuals with resources for employment opportunities, guiding them into the leadership pipeline of the ACBA and other boards and organizations, and advocating for individuals when they may be experiencing bias or other negative situations in the profession. I stay actively engaged with law students of color and other diverse students through my involvement with the Pitt Law Alumni Board. I also encourage others, particularly non-diverse attorneys to make sure that they are engaging with and being proactive in promoting inclusion and belonging, as it is not just diverse attorneys who should be tasked with doing the heavy lifting of ensuring that our profession is supportive and welcoming of everyone. I have benefitted greatly by having mentors from all backgrounds and the importance of this cannot be overstated.

I also speak on panels and engage with diverse high school students and middle school students, so we can steer children of color towards legal careers earlier so they can better prepare for a future in the profession. Last year, I had the opportunity to present at Imani Christian Academy, where I shared what it's like to be a lawyer with a group of predominantly Black middle and high school students, and offered advice on how to prepare for a career in law. I am also one of five all-women authors of "Black Lawyers of the Burgh," which was written to encourage Black children and other children of color to pursue careers in law.

Inclusion is defined as "the action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure." This will always be something that I remain passionate about. We have better dialogue and better outcomes with input from diverse perspectives. As the President of the ACBA, I was able to effectively use my platform, despite the limitations associated with the pandemic, to specifically promote mission and values of the bar association. I used my President's Messages to educate and offer a perspective on my diverse experience as a woman of color, specifically a Black woman and how that has shaped my experiences. As a member of the Board of Governors ("BOG"), I was not afraid to speak up when it was clear that BOG members, including officers, were failing to attend any of the affinity group events. This directly resulted in President Hal Coffey creating a standard for attendance and engagement. In my leadership roles, I make sure that I model inclusivity and belonging by ensuring diversity in all appointments and on committees and boards, so we have representation across all groups. I encourage my employer to make sure that they, too, are living up to their mission and values in considering who to interview and how we compose our interview panels.

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.

Elizabeth Hughes
Type or print name


Signature

1/23/2025
Date

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