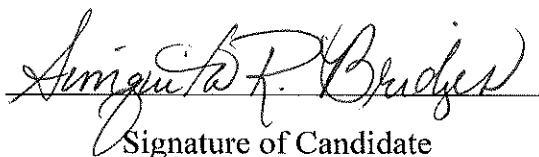


ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE

I, Simquita R. Bridges, 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

12/10/24
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 If I withdraw from the race, the rating will not be announced, and the questionnaires will not be published.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.

Simquita R. Bridges

12/10/24
Date

Type or print name
Simquita R. Bridges
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.

Simquita Renetta Bridges Maiden Name: Simquita Renetta Shearron

2. Date and place of birth.

January 11, 1965; Place of Birth: Clarksville, Tennessee

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.

Married, August 22, 1987 (spouse, Reginald Jerome Bridges)

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

I have never been divorced.

5. Have you served in the military? No 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.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW,
Pittsburgh, PA
Juris Doctor Degree conferred June 1996
Dates Attended: August 1993 through May 1996

CENTRAL MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY, Warrensburg, MO
Master of Business Administration Degree conferred December 1989
Dates Attended: August 1988 through August 1989

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY, Clarksville, TN
Bachelor of Business Administration Degree conferred August 1987
Dates Attended: August 1983 through August 1987

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.

Admitted by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on November 17, 1997 to the bar of the Courts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as an Attorney at Law Pennsylvania I.D. Number 80318.

Tennessee Board of Law Examiners, applied in 1996, exam not passed.

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.

Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
1251 Waterfront Place, Mezzanine Level
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-565-5466

Linkedin: Simquita Bridges
Instagram: quitabridges3
Facebook: Quita Shearron-Bridges

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

See complete description under Question 10

- a) Whether you served as clerk to a judge and, if so, the name of the judge, the court, and the dates of the period you were a clerk;

I clerked for the Honorable Cynthia A. Baldwin, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. My clerkship was from June 1996 to June 1998.

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

I have never practiced alone.

- 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,

Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (December 2014 to present)
1251 Waterfront Place, Mezzanine Level
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General

Allegheny County District Attorney's Office (June 1998 – December 2014)
436 Grant Street
401 Courthouse
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Deputy District Attorney

- d) Any other relevant particulars.

No

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

After graduating from law school in 1996, I began my legal career as a law clerk for the
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Honorable Cynthia A. Baldwin in the Family Division of the Court of Common Pleas. In this role, I conducted extensive legal research on matters involving custody, child support, and spousal support. I also reviewed and modified court orders, responded to appeals, and gained valuable insight into judicial decision-making and case management.

In June of 1998, I joined the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, where I dedicated 16 years to prosecutorial service. I started in Pre-Trial screening and soon transitioned to the General Trial Unit. In this capacity, I appeared in court daily, prosecuting a wide range of offenses, including driving under the influence, drug possession and delivery, forgery, theft, burglary, robbery, and both aggravated and simple assaults.

In 2001, I was promoted to the Domestic Violence Unit, where I prosecuted cases involving intimate partner violence, including attempted homicide, aggravated assault, simple assault, sexual assault, and Abuse Order violations. I represented victims at Indirect Criminal Contempt hearings, reinforcing my commitment to serving vulnerable populations. In 2007, I briefly served in the Violent Crimes and Firearms Unit, handling cases involving firearms-related offenses.

In 2009, I transitioned to the Child Abuse Unit, taking on the critical responsibility of prosecuting cases involving child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. I also managed homicide cases, further broadening my legal expertise.

In 2012, I was promoted to Deputy District Attorney, overseeing the General Trial Unit which included approximately 18 attorneys. My responsibilities included supervising attorneys in trial preparation, evaluating plea offers, and ensuring high quality case presentations. I also supervised the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) program for first-time, non-violent offenders and I managed Miscellaneous Motions Court addressing bail modifications, property seizures, fines, costs, and extraditions.

My leadership extended beyond the courtroom. I participated in the District Attorney's Hiring Committee, contributing to the recruitment and development of new attorneys. In 2013, I was appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to the Criminal Rules Committee, where I collaborated with judges, defense attorneys, and prosecutors to shape the rules governing criminal practice and procedure statewide.

In 2014, I joined the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General as Senior Deputy Attorney General, prosecuting cases across 23 counties in Western Pennsylvania. In 2018, I was promoted to Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General of the Criminal Prosecution Section. In this role, I oversee a team of prosecutors handling serious offenses, including criminal homicide and public corruption cases. I also manage Grand Jury Investigations,

conduct employee evaluations, and play an integral role in hiring decisions.

Beyond my supervisory duties, I lead the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Medical Legal Advisory Board on Child Abuse, a multidisciplinary panel of approximately 50 child abuse experts. The board provides professional consultation to law enforcement, prosecutors, and child protective services, reflecting my ongoing commitment to protecting children and advancing justice.

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 have appeared in the Court of Common Pleas regularly for the last 24 years (1998 – present).

- b) What percentage of these appearances was in:

1. Federal courts: 0%
2. State courts of record: 100%
3. Other courts: 0%

c) What percentage of your litigation was:

1. Civil: 0%
2. Criminal: 95%
3. Family: 5%
4. Orphans' Division: 0%

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 four hundred (400) cases
I was sole counsel or lead counsel for the cases I tried to verdict

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;

Since becoming Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General in 2018, my appearance in court has been less frequent due to my supervisory responsibilities. In this capacity, I oversee prosecutors who are responsible for the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses. I also directly supervise complex Grand Jury investigations.

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

Jury trials approximately 10%

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.

Yes. My trial activity was more frequent earlier in my career, before transitioning into supervisory roles. As a supervisor, I have focused on overseeing the work of other attorneys, ensuring the effective management of cases and providing strategic guidance – experience that has deepened my understand of legal processes and case management, further preparing me for a judicial position

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.

CASE 1

COMMONWEALTH V. MICHAEL MCMILLAN CC200706930

Party Represented:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Court:

Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Criminal Division
Honorable Anthony Mariani (retired)
Allegheny County Courthouse
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Attorney for Defendant:

Veronica Brestensky, Esquire
157 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-261-3827

Final Disposition of Case:

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Michael McMillian was convicted by a jury on April 29, 2008 of First Degree Murder, Aggravated Assault, Possession of Firearm by Minor, and Robbery and was sentenced to life in prison without parole. In 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that juveniles convicted of murder cannot be subject to a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. Mr. McMillian was resentenced to 30 years to life for First Degree Murder followed by 10 to 20 years for Aggravated Assault, 2 to 5 years for Possession of Firearm by Minor, and 10 to 20 years for Robbery.

Capsule Summary

Michael McMillan (hereinafter, McMillan") was charged with the death of Will Smoot (hereinafter "Smoot") and also for shooting another individual by the name of James Maurice Jones (hereinafter, "Jones"). On April 17, 2007, McMillan went to the home of Smoot. At the time, Smoot and Jones were gambling while playing the video game Madden. They were in Smoot's bedroom on the 3rd floor of the residence. When Smoot's mother, Rachel Larue (hereinafter, "Larue"), arrived home and realized that McMillan was there, she asked McMillan to leave. McMillan walked down the stairs but turned around and went back up the stairs. Moments later, Larue heard gun fire and scuffling. She then saw McMillan running down the stairs and out of the house. Larue ran up to the 3rd floor and saw her son laying on the floor suffering from a gunshot wound.

Krystal Hall testified that she saw McMillan running down the street like he was scared. McMillan then came to her residence and asked if he could stay. Ms. Hall testified that McMillan was wearing different clothes than when she saw him running earlier. Ms. Hall asked McMillan why he appeared scared. McMillan responded by stating that he had tried to rob someone and shot Smoot in the head and Jones in the arm.

When the police arrived on scene, they observed a substantial amount of money scattered all over the room, shell casings were about the floor and the furniture in the room was scattered. The police learned that McMillan had been at a residence on McClure Street just after the shooting. The residence was searched and the police found boots with blood stains, blue jeans, cell phones and a hair brush. Forensic DNA testing was performed on some of the evidence and Smoot's DNA was found on the boots and pants belonging to McMillan.

On April 29, 2008, a jury found Michael McMillan guilty of First Degree Murder, Aggravated Assault, Possession of a Firearm by Minor, and Robbery.

McMillan was 17 years of age at the time of the murder and he was homeless. He would spend the night with anyone that would allow him to stay. Although the evidence in the case was strong, I tried to resolve the case through plea negotiations. I recognized the youthfulness

and hopelessness of McMillan and that a conviction would give him a life sentence. McMillan was unwilling to plead guilty and a jury convicted him of Murder of the First Degree.

CASE 2

COMMONWEALTH V. JERRY SHOEMAKER CC 200815512

Party Represented:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Court:

Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
Honorable John A. Zottola (deceased)
Allegheny County Courthouse
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Attorney for Defendant:

George Bills (deceased)
437 Grant Street Suite 424
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Final Disposition:

Jerry Shoemaker was convicted by a jury for Rape of a Child, Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse with a Child, Aggravated Indecent Assault of Child, Indecent Assault, Endangering Welfare of Children, and Corruption of Minors. He was sentenced to 25 to 50 years for the convictions.

Capsule Summary:

Jerry Shoemaker (hereinafter "Shoemaker") was the stepfather of 11 year-old MK. One night MK spent the night with her cousin, JL. During the night, MK told JL that Shoemaker was making her perform oral sex and other sexual acts with him. MK begged JL not to tell anyone but JL told her mother. MK was taken to the police and reported the incident. MK described to the police in detail the various sexual encounters that she had with Shoemaker. MK told the police that she had oral sex with Shoemaker the day before her report and she described

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the color of underwear that he was wearing. The police obtained a search warrant and found the underwear in the clothes hamper. The front opening of the underwear was tested for DNA and MK's saliva was present.

This case is significant because I did not want to put an 11 year-old on the stand to testify in front of a room full of strangers. I did not want MK to feel as though she was being re-victimized. I attempted to negotiate a plea offer with Shoemaker and his counsel but Shoemaker refused to accept any responsibility. As such, the 11 year-old MK had to face her abuser and questions from his attorney. Unlike most child sexual abuse cases, this case had physical evidence. This evidence along with the credible testimony of MK solidified a conviction.

CASE 3

COMMONWEALTH V. LEONARD ANTHONY CC200716151
COMMONWEALTH V. KRISTOPHER GARNER CC200716150
COMMONWEALTH V. MARVIN HARPOOL CC200510182

Party Represented:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Court:

Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
Honorable John K. Reilly (deceased)
Allegheny County Courthouse
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Attorneys for Defendants:

Michael Worgul, Esquire (Counsel for Anthony)
429 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1700
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-477-3675

Owen Seman, Esquire (Counsel for Garner)
3875 Old William Penn Highway, Suite 6
Murrysville, PA 15668

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412-721-0412

Lisa Middleman, Esquire (Counsel for Harpool)
400 Ross Street, Room 504
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-350-1658

Final Disposition of the Case:

Leonard Anthony, Kristopher Garner and Marvin Harpool were charged with the death of Michael Hixson which occurred on September 12, 2003. All three individuals were charged with Criminal Homicide and Conspiracy to commit Criminal Homicide. Leonard Anthony and Kristopher Garner were tried together. Marvin Harpool was a cooperating witness for the Commonwealth and pled guilty to Murder of the Third Degree.

The jury convicted Leonard Anthony and Kristopher Garner. Leonard Anthony was sentenced to 20 to 40 years for Murder of the Third Degree and 5 to 10 years for Conspiracy. Anthony subsequently appealed his case and his conviction was reversed. He then pled guilty to Murder of the Third Degree and Conspiracy. He was sentenced to 13 ½ to 30 years for the convictions.

Kristopher Garner was sentenced to 15 to 30 years for Murder of the Third Degree and 2 ½ to 5 years for Conspiracy.

Marvin Harpool was sentenced to 7 to 15 years for Murder of the Third Degree.

Capsule Summary

On September 12, 2003, Michal Hixson (hereinafter "Hixson"), while sitting alone in Mellon Park, was stabbed several times and died from his injuries. The police had no suspects at the time of the murder.

Approximately two years after the incident, the police received a tip that one of the men responsible for the murder of Hixson was spotted in downtown Pittsburgh. Marvin Harpool (hereinafter "Harpool") was located and taken to police headquarters where he confessed to his involvement. He also identified the other two individuals that were with him on the night of the murder.

In a jury trial, Harpool testified against his co-conspirators stating that the three men approached Hixson and asked him for his money. Hixson got up to run and he was tripped by

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Kristopher Garner. When Hixon fell to the ground Leonard Anthony began stabbing Hixson. They went through Hixson's pockets and ran in separate directions. Harpool testified that he left Pittsburgh for a few years after the incident. Harpool testified that he was not aware that Leonard Anthony was going to stab Hixson. He thought that they were just going to take his money.

This case is significant because it was the first time that I worked with a cooperating co-defendant on a homicide case. Harpool was a key witness to uncovering the identity of the other two suspects. Initially, Harpool only knew the nicknames of the other two suspects. It took approximately two years of working with Harpool, through his attorney, before we uncovered the actual names of the other two suspects. Without Harpool's cooperation, Leonard Anthony and Kristopher Garner may not have been held accountable for their part in this crime.

CASE 4

COMMONWEALTH V. FAZIER GRACE CC200515667; 31 A.3d 742 (Pa. Super. 2011)

Party Represented:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Court:

Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
Honorable John A. Zottola (deceased)
Allegheny County Courthouse
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Attorney for Defendant:

Frank Reilly (deceased)
6021 Wellesley Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Final Disposition of Case:

On May 14, 2007, a jury convicted Frazier Grace of Rape, Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Sexual Assault, Kidnapping, Unlawful Restraint, and Simple Assault. Frazier Grace was sentenced to 10 to 20 years for the Rape conviction and 9 ½ to 19 years for the

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Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse conviction.

Capsule Summary:

Frazier Grace (hereinafter "Grace") was driving and saw his ex-girlfriend Angela Beasley (hereinafter "Beasley") walking down the street. Grace and Beasley had a volatile relationship. At the time of the incident, Beasley had been staying at the Women's Shelter to escape Grace. Grace forced Beasley into his car. When she tried to exit the car Grace punched Beasley in the face and told her he would kill her. He then drove her to his step-father's house in New Castle. New Castle is approximately 45 minutes from the city of Pittsburgh. Grace ordered Beasley to go inside the house. He told her to take her clothes off and get into the bathtub. Beasley kneeled down into the bathtub and Grace began to urinate all over her body. Grace then turned on cold water from the shower and made her stay there. When she was able to get out of the bathtub Grace forced Beasley to have sex with him. They later returned to Pittsburgh and Beasley was able to run away when Grace stopped at Home Depot.

This case is significant because throughout this relationship Grace had assaulted Beasley multiple times. The police had been called for several incidents between the two where Beasley was seriously injured. Beasley never wanted to go forward on any charges against Frazier. However, Beasley's breaking point was when Frazier urinated on her. It was not the physical injuries that she had sustained that cause her to break but it was Frazier humiliating her by making her kneel in a tub while he urinated on her.

CASE 5

COMMONWEALTH V. JOHNNIE BARTO CC201800375
COMMONWEALTH V. JOHNNIE BARTO CC201800552
COMMONWEALTH V. JOHNNIE BARTO CC201800584
COMMONWEALTH V. JOHNNIE BARTO CC201801128
COMMONWEALTH V. JOHNNIE BARTO CC201801129

Court:

Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County
Honorable Patrick T. Kiniry
Cambria County Courthouse
200 S. Center Street
Ebensburg, PA 15931
814-472-1552

Attorney for Defendant:

David Weaver, Esquire
515 Main Street
Johnstown, PA 15901
814-535-5571

Final Disposition of Case:

Johnnie Barto was charged at five separate criminal informations with sex offenses involving children between the ages of 8 to 12 years old. There were a total of 31 victims. On December 20, 2018, Mr. Barto pled guilty to CC2001800552 and CC 201800584 (the victims where Barto's family members) and he pled *nolo contendere* to the other three criminal informations. On March 18, 2019 Johnnie Barto was sentenced on all five cases with a total sentence of 79 to 158 years of imprisonment. Mr. Barto was also found to be a sexually violent predator.

Capsule Summary:

Johnnie Barto (hereinafter "Barto") was a family pediatrician in Johnstown, Pennsylvania for many years. He was a well-respected doctor and pillar of the community. In December of 2017, a 12 year-old female patient of Barto reported that he had touched her vaginal areas inappropriately. The 12 year-old victim reported that after her physical examination, she sat on Barto's lap while he was working on the computer. Barto slipped his hand down the pants of the 12 year old and rubbed her vagina. When Barto turned the chair around to face the victim's mother, the victim jumped off his lap immediately. The victim stated that as soon as she got in the car with her mother, she informed her mother of what had just happened. The incident was reported to the police.

Shortly after the first allegation, one of Barto's family members came forward and reported being inappropriately touched by Barto. The Office of Attorney General, under the guidance of Attorney General Josh Shapiro, opened a hotline for anyone that had been sexually assaulted by Barto. Many calls were received and through our investigation, we were able to file additional charges against Barto for assaulting a total of 31 children.

This case is significant because Barto was accused of this same conduct 40 years prior but no one believed the child. In fact, the whole community rallied around Barto and supported him when this was first reported. He became masterful at concealing his actions. Barto would position his body to block the view of the parent. It was reported that he would lean his elbow in the crotch area of the female child while talking to the non-suspecting parent. Barto would also have a child sit on his lap and position the chair so that others in the room could not see

what he is doing. Additionally, he would have his patients disrobe even if they were there for an ear infection under the disguise that he gives a full examination for all his patients.

Our investigation uncovered sexual assaults that could not be charged because the offense was beyond the statute of limitations. A tremendous amount of work went into locating and interviewing potential victims.

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.

Not Applicable

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.

Not Applicable

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.

Excel Home Care January 2020 to August 2022

Personal Care Assistant for my mother-in-law until her passing in 2022

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.

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.

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.

See Attachment 1

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.

Member, Allegheny County Bar Association

- Served on the Judicial Nomination Committee (2012-2015)

Former Member, Pennsylvania District Attorney Association

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

I have taught the following Continuing Legal Education courses:

- Driving Under the Influence: Skills That Win Cases
Pennsylvania Bar Institute, October 2013
- Effective Use of Suppression Motions in Criminal Court

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, October 2012

Speaker, PA State Police Advanced Homicide Symposium

Adjunct Professor, Austin Peay State University – Taught Introduction to Business

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.

PENNSYLVANIA CRIMINAL PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE
(2013-2014)

Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Criminal Rules Committee is an advisory group that assists the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. It is comprised of judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys from throughout the Commonwealth and is responsible for proposing new rules and rule amendments to the Pa. Rule of Criminal Procedure.

PITTSBURGH ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY,
INCORPORATED

(2019 – Present), Current Internal Audit Chair, Past Parliamentarian
P.O. Box 99383
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support to the community through established programs in local communities throughout the world.

THE URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

(2020 – Present), Board Secretary
332 Fifth Avenue, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

The Urban League is the largest social service/civil rights organization in Pittsburgh that helps others to help themselves through educational opportunities, health advocacy, housing counseling, and other programs to improve the ability of others to achieve economic empowerment and self-reliance.

THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
(2020-2023), Board Member
317 E. Carson Street Tower, Ste. 238
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The Boys and Girls Club is a place that enables all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

JACK & JILL OF AMERICA – PITTSBURGH CHAPTER
(2011-2020), Member and Lead Teen Advisor

Jack and Jill of America is a nation-wide organization founded to address the needs of African American children and to provide a social and cultural space for African America children. The organization aims to develop future leaders through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving and civic duty.

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.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS:

- Awarded the Onyx Woman Leadership Award, May 2024 from the Onyx Woman Network
- Certificate of Appreciation, March 2024, from the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Investigation Assessment Unit
- Awarded the Women of Excellence Honor, December 2019 from the Pittsburgh Courier
- Awarded the Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's Top Public Servant Award, February 2014 from Champion Enterprises

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

My career demonstrates a steadfast commitment to public service, extensive courtroom experience, and proven leadership in both prosecutorial and supervisory roles. I believe these qualities, combined with my dedication to the legal profession, makes me a strong candidate for your recommendation for the position of Common Pleas Judge.

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?

Over the course of my career, I have been committed to justice, fairness, and the rule of law. I have witnessed firsthand, the impact that the judiciary can have on individuals. I aspire to contribute meaningfully to a system that protects individual rights and uphold the principles of justice. I believe my experience, dedication and ability to listen and make balanced decisions would enable me to serve effectively in this capacity.

The strengths that I possess that qualifies me for the judiciary stems from a combination of experience in the courtroom and my personal attributes. I have handled many cases and navigated both trial and the investigative processes. This has given me an understanding of the law and courtroom procedures.

I have the ability to analyze evidence thoroughly, weigh evidence objectively and make informed decisions based on my evaluation. I communicate succinctly to ensure that everyone understands the rationale behind my decisions on how a case will proceed.

Additionally, my personal experiences have deepened my empathy and ability to relate to diverse individuals. These qualities are critical for understanding the human impact of judicial decisions. I embody both the legal acumen and the personal character necessary to serve as a fair, effective, and respected judge.

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

Raising my children has been one of the most significant achievements in my life outside of my profession. Parenting requires an extraordinary level of dedication, patience, and resilience. It has taught me invaluable lessons about empathy, time management, and personal growth. Watching my children develop into kind, thoughtful, and capable individuals has been profoundly rewarding. It is a role that challenges me daily and has shaped me into a more understanding and well-rounded person. The skills gained as a parent also influence my professional life, helping me approach challenges with greater perspective and care.

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

I am a member of the Office of Attorney General Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Committee. As a member, I have worked to promote an inclusive and equitable environment within our organization. My involvement includes participating, planning and execution of DEIB events and training sessions to raise awareness and understanding of the important issues. I have also assisted in reviewing policies to ensure they reflect the OAG's commitment to equity and inclusion. I engage with other members of the committee to gather feedback and identify areas of improvement. Through my role, I try to ensure our organization reflects the diversity of the communities we serve.

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.

Simquita R. Bridges

Type or print name


Signature

12/10/24
Date