

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
PERSONAL DATA 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
- United States District Court for Western District of Pennsylvania
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

1. State your full name:

Lisa Gaye Middleman

Have you ever been known by any other name? If so, please list.

N/A

2. Office address (include zip code):

A. Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender
542 Forbes Ave # 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 350-4002

B. Lisa Middleman, Esquire
2615 Glenchester Road
Wexford, PA. 15090
(412) 414-5861

Office telephone (include area code):

(412) 350-4002; (412) 414-5861

Name of law firm, if associated: Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender

3. Date and place of birth:

February 7, 1962 – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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

N/A

5. Family status:

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

No

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

FD-97-002312 Middleman v. Martin 6/18/1998
Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

6. Have you had any military service? If so,

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Duke University; 1980-1983; Bachelor of Arts – History

Carnegie Mellon University; Summer 1982; Computer Programming class

University of Pittsburgh School of Law; 1984-1987; Juris Doctorate

8. 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 November 9, 1987

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

Sole Practice; November 1987 to the present:

Lisa G. Middleman, Esquire

Frick Building

2615 Glenchester Road

Wexford, PA 15090

March 1987 to the present:

Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender

542 Forbes Ave #400

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Chief Law Clerk; March-November 1987

Preliminary Hearing Attorney; 1987-1988
Trial Attorney; 1988-present
Homicide Attorney; present

10. With respect to 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?

1987 – 2000; criminal 80%, civil and family 20%

In my early years as an attorney, I practiced criminal law, covering preliminary hearings, summary, felony and misdemeanor cases for the Office of the Public Defender. I participated in my first homicide case in 1992 and over the next five to ten years my Public Defender assignments became solely homicide cases. My private practice was mainly criminal, though I would cover motions and hearings for my father, Sanford Middleman, in all Court divisions except Orphans. I also had several civil cases that did not go to trial. I served as an arbitrator in the Arbitration section of the Civil Division.

2000 – present; criminal 95%, other 5%

My current Public Defender practice is criminal and almost exclusively Homicides and Death Penalty cases. I am Capital Case certified. My private practice is also mainly criminal. In addition to representing people who are charged with all grades of offenses in adult and juvenile courts, I have represented witnesses and victims at preliminary hearings, trials, motions and grand jury proceedings. I handled tangential issues for my clients, such as mental health commitments, PFAs, landlord/tenant disputes, and other housing disputes. I have also represented witnesses in civil discovery matters related to their criminal cases. I do not currently practice family or civil law. I serve as grievance officer for the trial attorneys in the United Steelworkers Union, representing employees in disciplinary matters.

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

My typical client is between 16 and 50, indigent, and suffering from joblessness, homelessness, poverty, addiction, a history of unsafe and unhealthy family environments, and/or mental health challenges.

11. With respect to the last five 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:

For the entirety of my career, I have appeared in court regularly.

b) What percentage of these appearances was in:

1. Federal courts: 0%
2. State courts of record: 75%
3. Other courts: 25% - I appear regularly at Magisterial District Judges.

c) What percentage of your litigation was:

1. Civil: 0-5%
2. Criminal: 95%

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:

I have tried approximately twenty cases to verdict in the last five years as either chief counsel or sole counsel. Of those cases, three were death penalty cases for the Public Defender's Office and two were pending at the same time. These cases involve significant investigation, preparation, motions practice, and client management and trials are of a longer length than the average criminal trial. As a result, when I am assigned to death penalty cases, my caseload is significantly diminished, pursuant to the American Bar Association Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases.

My homicide cases also frequently involve motions practice. In the last five years, I have had several cases resolved after successful motions litigation or immediately preceding or during trial.

e) What percentage of these trials were:

1. Jury: 50%
2. Non-jury: 50%

12. Summarize your experience in court prior to the last five years, indicating as to that period:

- a) Whether your appearances in court were more or less frequent:
- b) Any significant changes in the percentages stated in your answers to question 11(b), (c) and (e):
- 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.

In 1988, I became a trial attorney with the Allegheny County Public Defender's Office, and in that capacity was assigned about three to four hundred felony and misdemeanor cases a year. I was in court daily, with the majority of the cases resolved by guilty pleas or non-jury trials. In 1992, I was co-counsel in my first homicide case. After that time, I was assigned homicide cases for the PD's office, along with my regular caseload. Eventually, I became a full-time member of the Homicide Unit, trying only homicide and death penalty cases. Since that time, my appearances in court have been fewer, the cases have been more complex, and the duration of each homicide trial has been longer.

Initially, most of my homicide cases were resolved by jury trial, but currently less than half are jury trials. I would conservatively estimate that I have tried to verdict, in a court of record, at least five hundred cases in my thirty-four year career. To serve my clients competently, my trial work has required me to become extraordinarily well versed in the Pennsylvania Rules of Evidence and Criminal Procedure.

In Allegheny County, attorneys who were hired by the Public Defender's Office prior to 1996 are permitted to maintain a private practice. My small private practice has remained steadily, throughout the years, a mix of appearances in the courtrooms of Magisterial District Judges and Common Pleas Court.

The percentages of cases tried in federal, state and other courts, and the percentages of civil and criminal have remained the same.

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

COMMONWEALTH V. TIMOTHY JENKINS

- A) I was involved in post-trial motions (1986)
- B) Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, The Honorable Raymond Novak
- C) Post-trial Motions Counsel for Timothy Jenkins – Richard Levine, Esquire

My role in this case was as law clerk who authored post-trial motions for the defendant.

Timothy Jenkins was an intellectually disabled young man who had been convicted of first degree murder after a short, ineffective defense. He had paid his initial trial attorney three hundred dollars. I was chief law clerk at the Public Defender's Office and was tasked with writing post-trial motions on the case after the trial attorney withdrew. I researched and wrote the motion requesting a new trial based on ineffective assistance of trial counsel, and "second-seated" Rich Levine, the attorney who argued it. Judge Novak granted the Motion, granted Mr. Jenkins a new trial and appointed Mike Witheral to represent him. Mr. Jenkins was acquitted in the re-trial. This case was significant to me in that it was an early, stark example of the importance of effective counsel and the effects on people who cannot afford to hire competent counsel. My work on this case is what inspired me to become a Public Defender, to pursue just and fair trials and to fulfill my obligation to provide competent representation in every case that I handle, for each and every one of my clients.

COMMONWEALTH V. JOSEPH HOWELL

Joseph Howell v. Superintendent Rockview SCI; Attorney General Pennsylvania; District Attorney Allegheny County, 939 F.3d 260 (3d Cir. 2019)

- A) January 20, 2004 to January 26, 2004
- B) Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, The Honorable Lawrence O'Toole

C) Counsel for the Commonwealth – Darrell Dugan, Esquire (retired)
Allegheny County Office of the District Attorney
436 Grant St
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 350-4407

My role in this case was as counsel for the defendant.

Joseph Howell, an African American man, was convicted by an all-white jury of the murder of a white man during a drug deal.

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution fair cross-section requirement forbids systematic discrimination in the creation of the jury venire and panel. In 2001, in response to concerns about underrepresentation of the African American community in jury venires, I, along with another attorney in the Public Defender's Office, commissioned a study by Dr. John F. Karns, a sociologist and statistician from the University of Pittsburgh. He analyzed data gathered from questionnaires that we designed and distributed to those who appeared for jury duty in the Criminal Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County during a six month period in 2001 and several days in 2002. Dr. Karn's conclusions were that although African Americans made up 10.7% of the population of Allegheny County who were eligible for jury service, the percentage of African Americans who were present in the jury pool was only 4.87%. This means that over half of African Americans who were eligible for jury service were excluded from that service. We presented that data in several Allegheny County homicide cases.

Prior to jury selection, I filed a Motion to Ensure Representative Venire, arguing that Howell was entitled to a jury pool that represented a fair cross section of Allegheny County with respect to race. The trial court held a hearing on Howell's allegations that black individuals were systemically underrepresented in Allegheny County's jury pools, during which it adopted the record from two other Allegheny County cases where this data had been used to raise a fair-cross-section challenge based on race.

Mr. Howell remains unsuccessful in gaining a new trial due to the underrepresentation of a subset of the population on his jury. The Third Circuit recently held that any underrepresentation in Howell's jury pool was not due to a systematically discriminatory process.

However, in response to our study and subsequent litigation on this issue, Court Administration office took steps to change its procedures in order to better ensure proportionate representation on jury panels. The Court Administration Office revised its

eligibility questionnaire to include questions regarding race, age, and gender so that it could better understand whether a particular group was overrepresented or underrepresented. Allegheny County additionally implemented procedures to follow up on unreturned questionnaires, ensure that the Master List reflects up-to-date addresses, and encourage individuals to respond to jury summonses.

I am gratified to have played a role in protecting the constitutional right to be tried by a jury of one's peers, comprised of a representative sample of the community.

COMMONWEALTH V. RONALD TAYLOR, 583 Pa. 170, 876 A.2d 916 (2005)

A) October 22, 2001 to November 11, 2001

B) Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, The Honorable Lawrence O'Toole

C) Co-counsel – John Elash, Esquire (retired)

310 Grant Street

Pittsburgh, PA. 15219

(412) 642-6616

Counsel for the Commonwealth – The Honorable Edward Borkowski

513 Allegheny County Courthouse

436 Grant Street

Pittsburgh, PA. 15219

(412) 350-2711

My role in this case was co-counsel for the defendant, with main responsibility for sentencing.

Ronald Taylor is a mentally ill black man who set his apartment on fire, shot and killed three people, and wounded two others in a racially-motivated rampage through Wilksburg. He was charged with three counts of Homicide, and the Commonwealth sought the death penalty.

This case is significant to me for personal reasons. Although it was not my first death penalty case, it was the first involving multiple victims, and the first to garner significant media attention. It was also the first time that I was responsible for reaching out to the family of one of the victims of an atrocious crime who was opposed to the death penalty. I was struggling with extraordinary stress and pressure to perform in this case. I was necessarily trying to balance my work obligations to a client facing the death penalty with my role as a single mother with primary custody of two children, five and nine years old. During the trial, my younger child developed "stomach aches" before kindergarten and cried every morning to stay home from school. My older child seemed to need more of

my time and attention than I had to give. The jury eventually convicted Mr. Taylor and sentenced him to death on the three homicide counts. My reaction to the verdict, and the toll that the case took on my family, led me to recognize the need, as a lawyer, to develop strategies to both represent my clients competently and at the same time, to insulate my children from the stresses of litigation which I was bringing home every day. Now, I can much better manage the pressure of taking on cases of such great significance to my clients.

This case is also notable in that it was the first time that a mitigation specialist was employed as a part of the defense team in a death penalty case in Allegheny County. I had read about and discussed the use of mitigation specialists, who have specialized training in the gathering of evidence that is used in the sentencing phase of a death penalty case, but had not seen one used locally. Now, it is the standard of practice to include a mitigation specialist as part of the defense team.

COMMONWEALTH V. RICHARD POPLAWSKI, 634 Pa. 517, 130 A.3d 697
(2015)

A) June 6, 2011 to June 28, 2011

B) Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, The Honorable Jeffrey Manning

C) Co-counsel – William Brennan, Esquire

310 Grant St #1515
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 519-6643

Lisa Phillips Caufield, Esquire
Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender
542 Forbes Ave #400
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Counsel for the Commonwealth – Mark Tranquilli, Esquire

1410 Navahoe Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(724) 941-5328

Lisa Pellegrini, Esquire
Allegheny County Office of the District Attorney
436 Grant St
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 350-4407

My role in this case was as lead counsel for the defendant, with main responsibility for trial.

Richard Poplawski shot and killed three police officers and wounded others in the siege of a neighborhood in Stanton Heights. In addition to numerous other charges, Poplawski was charged with three counts of homicide and the Commonwealth sought the death penalty.

Every criminal defendant, regardless of the heinous nature of the crimes with which he is accused, is constitutionally entitled to a vigorous defense and a fair trial. Arbitrary results, which frequently occur in death penalty cases, can only be avoided when competent counsel, the most fundamental guarantee of the adversary system, is provided to the accused. The evidence against the defendant was overwhelming and our team faced many challenges during the course of this trial. There was protracted litigation of complex and difficult issues. I am very proud that we were able to fulfill our obligation to thoroughly litigate every reasonable issue in order to protect our client's right to a fair trial in this extremely tragic case.

COMMONWEALTH V. DYRAN DAVENPORT

- A) Trial August 15, 2017 ended in hung jury; May 30, 2018 to June 5, 2018
- B) Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, The Honorable David Cashman
- C) Counsel for the Commonwealth – Daniel Fitzsimmons, Esquire
281 Jane Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

My role in this case was as counsel for the defendant.

The Clairton police received a call that a man had been shot. When they arrived, they found Chaz Bush shot in the back with an exit wound in his face. Police body camera footage captured Bush naming Davenport as his murderer. He died on the way to the hospital.

Crawford v Washington, 541 U.S. 36 (2004) is a United States Supreme Court decision that changed the standard for determining when a hearsay statement by an unavailable witness can be used in a criminal prosecution. Prior to the decision in *Crawford*, the confrontation clause of the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution did not bar admission of an unavailable witness's statement if the statement had adequate indicia of reliability. Evidence satisfied that test if it fell within a firmly rooted hearsay exception or had particularized guarantees of trustworthiness. The *Crawford* Court held that if a

statement was “testimonial in nature”, it could not be admitted into evidence absent the witness’s unavailability and the prior opportunity for cross-examination. There is one clear exception. If the party against whom the statement is sought to be admitted, has caused the unavailability of the declarant in order to prevent their testimony, he has forfeited his right to confrontation.

The legal issue in the Davenport case was Pennsylvania’s treatment of a dying declaration exception to *Crawford*. While the Supreme Court, in a footnote (541 US 36, 56 n6 (2004), seemed to say that a dying declaration remained an exception to the confrontation clause requirements set forth within the opinion, Pennsylvania courts had not (and have not) clearly stated that such a declaration would be an exception to Article 1, Section 9, of the Pennsylvania Constitution, the analogous Pennsylvania constitution provision.

I did not think it likely that the Court would grant my Motion in Limine, and he did not. However, it was important to preserve this issue of first impression for appeal in the likely event of Mr. Davenport’s conviction. This case was particularly well suited for appeal on the issue, as there was little physical evidence to tie Davenport to the murder and a harmless error analysis would be unlikely.

Although the footage was admitted into evidence, both juries were very receptive to arguments about the historic and practical importance of the necessity for the cross-examination of witnesses. The first jury was hung and on a subsequent retrial, the jury acquitted. Fortunately for Mr. Davenport, his case was not the one to definitively decide this issue.

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

N/A

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

The Allegheny County Public Defender’s Office has a division solely for appellate work. I have not worked in that division.

16. a) Have you ever held judicial office? If so, give dates and details, including the courts involved, whether elected or appointed, periods of services, and a description of the jurisdiction of each of such courts with any limitations upon the jurisdiction of each court:

I have not.

- b) Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, give details, including the office involved, whether elected or appointed, and the length of your service, giving details:

I have not.

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

I was an unsuccessful candidate for Allegheny County District Attorney, as an Independent, in the general election in 2019.

18. 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:

No

19. 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.

N/A

- 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:

N/A

20. Have you ever been convicted of violating any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If so, give details. Do not include summary traffic offenses:

No

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

No

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

No

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

GD-94-002951 Black v. Borkowski et al

Sometime in 1990, then-City Magistrate Ed Borkowski, who was permitted to have a private law practice, was returning to the District Attorney's Office full time and had to give up his private civil cases. One of the cases that Judge Borkowski asked me to handle involved a woman, Heather Black, who had been in a traffic accident and wanted to sue. The statute of limitations was about to run and neither I nor Mr. Borkowski could locate her to have her sign any type of agreement to change legal representation. The choice that I faced was to allow the statute of limitations to run, barring her from raising her claim, or to file a complaint on her behalf without ever having spoken to her. I filed a complaint based on the information in Mr. Borkowski's file, but was never able to locate Ms. Black. The defendant filed a counterclaim. As the result of our inability to reply to the counterclaim, the defendant took judgement. Ms. Black sued us all when she became aware of the judgement against her and we paid her the full amount of her arbitration claim for malpractice. The lessons I learned from this experience have not been forgotten. They were quite humbling, painful, and very valuable.

24. Have you ever been a party or otherwise involved in any other legal proceedings? If so, give the particulars. Do not list proceedings in which you were merely a guardian ad litem or stakeholder. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, a material

witness, were named as 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:

GD-98-016251 Middleman v. Martin – fraud claim related to Equitable Distribution
I was the plaintiff in a case against my ex-husband. During equitable distribution discovery, he failed to divulge the pending sale of the company in which he was a part owner. It was settled.

FD-97-002312 Middleman v. Martin – Divorce, Custody and Child Support
All issues eventually resolved by agreement.

25. 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 particulars:

I have not. Please see attached certification from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. I believe that, in my capacity as a Public Defender, it is possible that I may have been the subject of a complaint to a disciplinary committee. No such complaint has ever been sustained.

26. 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

27. 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

28. Furnish one (1) example of a legal article, law review article, brief, or other legal writing which reflects your personal work. If a brief is submitted, indicate the degree to which it represents your personal work:

The attached brief was written with me as primary counsel. I had significant discussions of key issues with and research assistance from Linda Hamilton, who at the time was a law clerk at the Public Defender's Office. Ms. Hamilton had responsibility for format and citations.

The attached motion is my work alone.

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

Allegheny County Bar Association
Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity (past member)

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

Colleges and Universities

Duquesne University School of Law – Homicide
University of Pittsburgh School of Law– Death Penalty
California University of Pennsylvania – Research and Real Life Series (scheduled for February 2021)

Secondary Schools

Pittsburgh Public Schools
Westinghouse High School (The Academy)
Peabody High School
Lincoln Intermediate
Avonworth High School
Seneca Valley High School
Woodland Hills High School
North Allegheny Senior High School

Moot Court

Judge – held at University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Guest Advisor – Woodland Hills Moot Court Competition

Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender

Sex Assault Crimes
Mental Health Defenses
Jury Selection
Trial Tactics

Pennsylvania Bar Institute

Trial Tactics

Developing and Trying the Case

The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law

Shaken Baby Syndrome

Ethic in Criminal Investigation and Prosecution

Whistle Blowing on Attorney and Judicial Misconduct

Video Training for District Magisterial Justices to qualify to hear Homicide Cases.

Over fifty Community Organizations and non-legal audiences during my campaign for District Attorney

31. 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:

United Steelworkers – I was elected grievance officer.

NAACP

Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority

Moms Demand Action

North Allegheny Girls Soccer Association

Planned Parenthood

Meadowood Book Club

UNITE

Paws Across Pittsburgh

The 15104 Initiative

Order of the Phoenix

Animal Friends

Shady Side Academy Alumni Association

Duke University Alumni Association

32. 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.

33. State any other information which may reflect positively or adversely on you or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for an election to a Court of Pennsylvania.

In my campaign for District Attorney of Allegheny County, I was fortunate to hear the views of many people regarding the function of our legal system. My conversations with community leaders all over the county have given me a much deeper understanding of how vital the role of our local leaders, foundations and community organizations is in supporting public confidence in the system and in the judiciary. The relationships and support I have built will facilitate that promotion of public understanding of and confidence in the administration of justice, which is an obligation for any member of the bench under the Code of Judicial Conduct.

34. Why do you wish to become a Justice or Judge? What special strengths do you feel you possess that would particularly well qualify you for the position of Justice or Judge?

My thirty-five years of experience in successfully preparing and trying the most complex and life-altering cases, including death penalty cases, and in directing the teams involved in that endeavor, have provided me with the opportunity to research and present arguments regarding the effects that violence, mental health problems, poverty, trauma and addiction can have, not only on individuals, but on their families, victims, and the neighborhoods in which they live. And I have crafted legal arguments that expressed these concerns within a framework that allowed the law to give credence to them and for juries to understand their significance.

Years of extensive experience with the rules of evidence and procedure have provided me with a framework upon which I can continue to build, to ensure that the proper rulings will be made on potentially case dispositive issues. I have demonstrated not only my ability to work very hard to resolve complex issues, but my deep appreciation of the significance that my judgement may have, not only on the people who appear before me, but on their families and on the community. I began my career as a passionate, fiery advocate for the Constitutional rights of the clients that I serve. Over the years, I have developed a greater understanding for the importance of dignified, diligent, and forceful

advocacy, in order to further the public's understanding of and confidence in the rule of law and the justice system.

My career has been one of service to the Constitution and to the people of Allegheny County. I wish to be a judge to continue that service in a way that will ensure equity and fairness to all that come before me.

35. Did you sign the ACBA Judicial Campaign Advertising Guidelines Pledge? (Please return signed pledge with completed questionnaire.)

Yes

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

The undersigned certifies that all of 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.

Lisa G. Middleman

Type or print name

/s/ Lisa G. Middleman

Signature

January 18, 2021

Date

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE

I, Lisa Middleman , 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 of Minnesota v. White*, 536 U.S. (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.

Amended 11/18/2014

/s/ Lisa Middleman

January 18, 2021