

LIBERTY CITY LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER DEMOCRATIC CLUB

2009 JUDICIAL PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name ANGELO J. FOGLIETTA Office Sought Common Pleas Court Judge Date 04-02-09

- 1) What is your experience with the LGBT community both generally and/or professionally?

I have no personal experience with the LGBT community, other than with a member of my family who is gay. He is a cousin I grew up with and someone I and my entire family love and respect. I also have two friends who are gay and I treasure their friendship and support. I feel I am indeed fortunate to have these people in my life. I have both Lesbian and Gay clients in my practice. I was raised to believe that someone's sexual orientation is a private matter and would bring that same attitude to the bench.

- 2) How have you advanced, through professional and personal achievements, the rights of the LGBT community, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities?

I have always, in both my personal and professional life, championed the rights of all minorities regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sex or sexual orientation. I also am a volunteer for the Special Olympics and involved with the Variety Club.

- 2) Do you support the rights of LGBT people to the following:

- a. Marriage? Yes
- b. Civil Unions? Yes
- c. Domestic Partnership? Yes
- d. Second-parent adoption? Yes
- e. Protection from workplace discrimination? Yes
- f. Protection from housing discrimination? Yes
- g. Protection from acts of violence based on their sexual orientation or gender identity? Yes

- 3) Do you consider transgender rights a civil rights issue? Explain your answer.

I do, because denial of basic Civil Rights to anyone, regardless of the reason is, in my opinion, a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The unique issues faced by our Transgendered community only serves to highlight the fact that all Americans must be vigilant to ensure that all members of society are treated with the dignity and respect to which we are all entitled.

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4) How should a judge support public accommodations for transgender individuals appearing before them or otherwise within the criminal justice system?

Ensuring that all individuals appearing before me are treated with dignity and respect would be a requirement in my courtroom. Making sure that my entire courtroom staff is sensitive to the unique issues involved with transgendered individuals is also vital.

5) LGBT youth sometimes act out because of harassment at school or in the home due to their gender/sex identity. When ADAs prosecute cases against these members of our community, what will you do to prepare your staff to be sensitive to their issues? Additionally, LGBT youth who spend time in juvenile detention facilities face many dangers. What alternative sentences might you seek in their cases?

I am a proponent of treatment over incarceration where appropriate, in order to rehabilitate offenders so that they return to society as productive members. I've already indicated that my entire courtroom staff will be made aware of the unique issues involved with LGBT individuals, especially LGBT youth. Understanding that LGBT youth may be acting out because of other factors in their life, such as harassment at school or at home, and not, as a judge, overreacting to such outbursts is important. Every person has a right to be protected while in the custody and care of the judicial system.

6) What has been the general nature of your practice and particular areas of concentration? Please describe any changes throughout the years?

My practice has been varied since my admission to the Bar and has uniquely prepared me for the bench. I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants and I have achieved significant results on behalf of both. The one constant, regardless of whom I may be representing at the time, has been personal integrity and respect for the legal system and my chosen profession.

7) Describe a few of the most significant cases you have litigated. Please give a summary of the substance of the cases, the citations if available, and why you believe they were significant.

Two of my most recent cases were; Carman v. Wordsworth Academy et al CCP Montgomery County 01-12604. In this case an autistic child was abused at a private special school. I had a guardian appointed for the child and after a number of mediations and extensive discovery as well as extensive investigations I was able to achieve a large settlement for the child. I also had a Special Needs Trust established to protect the funds for the injured child. The next most recent significant case I handled was Scheffley v. Abad et al CCP Northampton County C-0048-CV-2005-9083. This tragic case involved the misdiagnosis of a brain tumor in a young mother of 3 small children. After very extensive discovery and after the plaintiff testified the matter settled for a very large sum. Both of these cases permitted individuals who had a grave injustice perpetrated upon them seek and receive some measure of justice from those who committed that injustice.

8) State briefly why you are seeking the Democratic nomination to be a judge in Philadelphia, and what qualities you believe you possess that would serve you especially well if you were elected to the Court.

I have been an attorney in this state for approximately 31 years. One measure of my legal ability and ethical standards is the fact that my peers, with whom I have interacted over the years have consistently given me the highest possible rating based on the Martindale-Hubbell rating system for legal ability and ethical standards. That rating of AV is one of which I am particularly proud. I encourage everyone to go to Martindale.com and research my rating as well as those of the other judicial candidates. It is my intention to help to restore integrity and honor to the judiciary if elected to the bench.

- 9) What are the most pressing needs of reform in our judicial system in your opinion?
Electing judges who put the needs of the community they have been elected to serve over all other considerations within the bounds of the law and as permitted by Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 10) For what organizations have you done pro-bono work?
Feed the Children, Special Olympics and The Senior Citizen Judicare Project.
- 11) Do you support a woman's right to choose?
Generally yes, however in the interest of full disclosure, I must state that I am opposed to the procedure known as Partial Birth Abortion. I am aware of no medical or scientific studies which have demonstrated a need for that procedure. If, however, a mother's life is truly endangered at a late stage in her pregnancy, then that decision should be between her and her doctor without any governmental interference.
- 12) Have you ever been sanctioned for any alleged breach of ethics or professional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee, judicial conduct committee, or other professional group? If so, please explain the nature of the sanction.
No
- 13) Have you been recommended by the Philadelphia Bar Association?
Yes

Please return by Friday April 3rd via e-mail to matt@libertycity.org
Or via mail to:
Liberty City Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club
C/o Matthew Woodcock
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