

LIBERTY CITY LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER DEMOCRATIC CLUB

2009 JUDICIAL PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name Judge Pat Dugan Office Sought Municipal Court Date 4-2-09

1) What is your experience with the LGBT community both generally and/or professionally?
I have always respected people and their right to be themselves.

2) How have you advanced, through professional and personal achievements, the rights of the LGBT community, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities? Yes.
I treat all people who appear in front of me with the utmost respect. I feel that as a judge I must look at everyone on a neutral basis, therefore I am blind to one's sexual preference (unless of course it is a factor in the case.)

While stationed in Iraq, I was instrumental in starting one of the first ever Iraqi Women Empowerment Groups, which introduced women to small business models and political power (many became elected Iraqi officials). I also assisted in forming many Non Government Organizations (NGOs) including ones primarily for Dwarfs (their term) and minorities in Iraq (Christians, Turkomans and Kurds).

I have two children who are of mixed races (son who is Panamanian and a daughter who is Korean-American).

3) 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? Of course!

4) Do you consider transgender rights a civil rights issue? Explain your answer.
Yes. People, all people deserve the protection of the law.

5) How should a judge support public accommodations for transgender individuals appearing before them or otherwise within the criminal justice system?
A court must take into account all special circumstances involving defendants and order that defendants be protected as best the system allows. I am always open to listen to ideas on how to accommodate anyone in the system.

6) 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 open to alternate ideas on how to handle cases, especially when the defendant is actually a victim as well. I insist on my staff and all of those who appear and/or work in my courtroom to treat all with respect. House arrest, electronic monitoring, intense supervision and placement outside of their home are potential alternative sentences. In any sentence with a student and/or young person – finishing their education is a part of my order.

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

Right now I am an appointed Municipal Judge, having been on the bench since August 2007 and I have presided well over 10,000 cases. Prior to that I was sole practitioner, with emphasis in Child Advocacy, Criminal and Family Law. I also currently practice Military Law as a Judge Advocate in the Army Reserves having deployed to Afghanistan a JAG officer in 2006-2007.

8) 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.

As a child Advocate, I protected many children from their abusers by being an attorney who went above and beyond the norm. I visited homes, making sure that my clients were safe. If they weren't I had them removed. These cases were my passion and keeping a child safe and vibrant is the key to a decent future.

As, I judge, I have already been assigned to the Homicide Prelim room – and every one of those cases are extremely significant as they pertain to the killings of human beings as well as the potential ending of the life of the defendant.

9) 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 am a life-long Democrat and Philadelphian. I was raised in lower middle class home. I was the first to go to college in my family. I worked my way through college (after a stint in the Army). I bartended my way through Law School. I am the same person that I was when I was a bartender or a paratrooper. I bring Common Sense to the bench. I treat all participants with respect, I listen and I make many tough decisions every day. It is a blessing, an honor and a huge responsibility to be a sitting judge. I want to stay there as I know that I am well respected for my work ethic as well as my judicial temperament. I feel that I serve our city from the bench.

10) What are the most pressing needs of reform in our judicial system in your opinion?

The system is overcrowded and underfunded. There are not enough alternative, effective programs to assist the courts in placing drug addicts and "petty" criminals into effective "social" assistance. Victims and witnesses are afraid to come to court. Victims and witnesses must come to court too many times. Many Prosecutors and Defenders are overworked at the Municipal Court level.

11) For what organizations have you done pro-bono work?
I previously did work for VIP.

12) Do you support a woman's right to choose?
Yes

13) 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

14) 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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