

LIBERTY CITY LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER DEMOCRATIC CLUB

2009 JUDICIAL PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name : Sharon Williams-Losier Office Sought : Judge of Court of Common Pleas ___ Date: March 22, 2009

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

I have experience with the LGBT community socially, professionally and in my community service activities.

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 am passionate about civil rights and am active in organizations with strong LGBT agendas as well as racial and ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities. (see attached bio).

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

- a. Marriage? **Yes**
- b. Civil Unions? **Yes**
- c. Domestic Partnership? **Yes. All persons have the right to choose their associations with each other.**
- 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.

Yes I view transgender rights as a civil rights issue. Transgender persons are entitled to all the rights and privileges that all citizens enjoy.

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

I think that transgendered persons should be considered the sex that they identify. Pre surgery transgender persons should probably have separate accommodations. Post surgery

transgender person would have different considerations. I think that each case should be considered on a case by case basis. The safety of the individual is of the utmost importance.

- 4) 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 would be sensitive to particular issues that those of sexual minorities as well as all types of minorities and special pressures that the youth face. I would never place a youth in a dangerous position because of their status. I am the mother of 4 children and think that I understand the immature actions that youth under particular pressures face.

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

I have been a general practice focusing on civil litigation and workers' compensation representing plaintiffs and claimants. For the past 3 years I have worked as a legislative aide and counsel to Philadelphia City Councilwoman Marian B. Tasco.

- 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.

I would say that the some of the most significant cases that I have litigated recently were before the Philadelphia Malt and Brewed Beverage Board. The concerted effort of many council offices were able to make really had an impact on the way that beer stop and goes do business in the City of Philadelphia.

- 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 am a life long resident of Philadelphia and a practicing attorney for over half of it. I have worked as a law clerk to a judge, a trial attorney, a legislative aide, a hearing examiner, and have been an arbitrator for the Court of Common Pleas since 1989. From these vantages I am aware of the tremendous responsibility of the

court and the impact that judges have on the lives of the citizens of Philadelphia and the quality of life in our city. I am aware of the importance of a knowledgeable, experienced, fair and impartial judiciary.

For most of my life I have been very much involved in community service and through these activities I have developed a great passion for the people of Philadelphia. I believe that a good judge is always mindful of their impact in the administration of justice in a fair and orderly manner and maintain their passion for the people while doing so.

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

For the voters to educate themselves about the candidates, so that their choices are made based on the qualities of the candidates and not so related to ballot position.

10) For what organizations have you done pro-bono work? 1. Oak Lane Community Action Association 2. Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center 3. NAACP 4. ACLU 5. League of Woman Voters 6. Philadelphia Democratic City Committee 7. Democratic National Committee 8. Numerous campaigns, local, statewide and national. 9. Various private individuals.

11) Do you support a woman's right to choose? Absolutely!

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?

I am in the process of their review. My interview by the committee is Friday, April 3, 2009.

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

2302 Fitzwater Street, #1

Philadelphia, PA 19146