

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: **Ilan Zur**

Have you ever been known by any other name? If so, please list. **No.**

2. Office address (include zip code): **Office of the District Attorney
Room 401 Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

Office telephone (include area code): **412-350-5109**

Name of law firm, if associated: **N/A**

3. Date and place of birth: **September 17, 1972. New York, NY**

4. Are you a naturalized citizen? If so, give date and place of naturalization: **No.**

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: **Yes.**

Date of marriage: **May 19, 2012**

Spouse's full name: **Lisa Marie Guizzetti**

- b) Have you been divorced? **Yes.** If so, state the date, the number of the case and the court: Date: **July 10, 2008.** Case #: **FD08-07351.** Court: **Court of Common Pleas, Family Division.**

6. Have you had any military service? **No.** If so,

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

- b) Have you ever been rejected or released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable? **No.** If so, give details:

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:

Carnegie Mellon University

August 1990 – May 1994

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management

Minor in architecture

University of Pittsburgh School of Law

August 1995 – May 1998

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.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – admitted October 1998.

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania – admitted October 1998.

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

- 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: **N/A**
- b) Whether you practiced alone and, if so, the addresses and the dates: **N/A**
- 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:

Seewald, Swartz & Associates

429 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15219

Legal intern, May 1998 -October 1998

Allegheny County District Attorney's Office

436 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, Pa 15219

Assistant District Attorney, October 1998 – May 2013

Deputy District Attorney, May 2013 - present

- d) Any other relevant particulars:

Allegheny County Public Defender

542 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Legal intern, Appellate Division, May 1996 - August 1996

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?

The general character of my practice has been criminal prosecution. Over the course of my 22 year career in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office I have prosecuted a wide range of criminal offenses. Below is a breakdown by year outlining the types of cases I handled and my general responsibilities within the office.

1998 - 1999 –Pretrial screening unit. Drafted criminal informations.

1999 - 2003 –General trial unit. This is the office's entry level trial unit where I handled a variety of misdemeanor and felony cases to include burglary, DUI, and theft related offenses.

2003 - 2004 –Narcotics unit. Prosecuted felony drug offenses.

2004 - 2009 - Violent crimes and firearms (VCF) unit. Prosecuted individuals for crimes committed with the use of a firearm such as criminal attempt homicide, aggravated assault, and robbery.

2009 - 2013 – Homicide unit. Prosecuted individuals charged with the crime of homicide.

2013- Present – Deputy District Attorney. In 2013 I was promoted to Deputy District Attorney of the VCF and Narcotics units. As the deputy of this unit my primary responsibility is to provide advice and guidance to the 14 assistant district attorneys that I supervise. In addition to my supervisory duties, I also maintain a trial calendar which is comprised primarily of homicide cases.

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

I represent the Commonwealth and the area in which I have concentrated my practice is criminal prosecution, specifically the prosecution of individuals who have committed the crime of homicide.

11. With respect to the last five years:

- a) Did you appear in court regularly, occasionally, or not at all? **Regularly.**
If the frequency of your appearances in court has varied during this period, describe each such variance, giving the dates thereof:
- 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: **100**

- 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:

With respect to the last five years I have tried 6 cases to verdict. I was sole counsel for 5 cases and chief counsel on 1.

- e) What percentage of these trials were:
1. Jury: **83% (5)**
 2. Non-jury: **17% (1)**

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:

My appearances in court prior to the last five years were more frequent. From 1999 to 2009, as an assistant district attorney in the General Trial Unit, Narcotics unit, and VCF unit I appeared in court on nearly a daily basis. As a member of the homicide unit, my court appearances were less frequent as my trial calendar was reduced considerably due to the complexity of the cases. When I was promoted to deputy of the VCF and Narcotics units my responsibilities became primarily managerial in nature further limiting my court appearances and the number of cases I could carry on my trial calendar. Since I have been in a management position my trial calendar is limited to approximately 5-10 pending cases at a time.

- b) Any significant changes in the percentages stated in your answers to question 11(b), (c) and (e): **Yes.**

With respect to 11(e) there is a significant change.

NON-JURY:

I did not keep a record of all the non-jury trials I tried to verdict between 1999-2015. Based on the volume of my trial calendar, especially in the general trial unit where it was common to be assigned 20 cases per week, I estimate I tried at a minimum 350 non-jury trials to verdict.

JURY:

Prior to the last 5 years (1999-2015), I tried 62 jury trials to verdict. This estimate is very accurate as I did keep a record of my jury trials once I moved to the homicide unit in 2009, and I can recall most of the other jury trials between 1999 and 2009.

1. Jury: **17% (62)**
2. Non-jury: **83% (300)**

- 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.

Prior to the last five years (1999-2015) I tried approximately 400 cases to verdict of which I was sole counsel on each.

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;

1: Commonwealth v. Charles Cabiness
CP-02-CR-0016743-2009

A) **Trial dates:** October 14, 2011 – October 21, 2011.

B) **Court and Judge:** This case was tried before the Honorable Edward J. Borkowski in the Court of Common Pleas.

C) **Defense Counsel:** James A. Wymard
220 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-281-6963

On May 14, 2009, Luzay Watson shot and killed Davon Young. Two months later, in August 2009, Monnica Gay (Young's sister) testified for the Commonwealth at Watson's preliminary hearing, following which Watson was held for trial on the charge of criminal homicide for the murder of Davon Young.

After the preliminary hearing, Watson remained in the Allegheny County Jail where he made numerous phone calls to his girlfriend and brother Charles Cabiness. In these calls, Watson demanded that the witnesses against him be eliminated.

On August 22, 2009, at approximately 11:00 AM, Charles Cabiness shot Monnica Gay in the back of the head while she was outside of her sister Donneika's house, in the company of neighbors and her sister's young children.

The significance of this case to me, in addition to the general senseless loss of life, was twofold: First, it was an affront to the legal system in that Monnica Gay was a Commonwealth witness who was murdered solely for that reason. Second, a father's two children were murdered within a two-month period - Davon Young because he got into an argument with Luzay Watson and Monnica Gay because she testified in court.

I represented the Commonwealth in this matter as the sole trial attorney. I argued all preliminary motions, selected the jury, opened to the jury, conducted direct examination on all Commonwealth witnesses, of which there were approximately 35, cross examined the defense witnesses, and closed to the jury. In addition to calling lay witnesses to the stand, I also conducted the direct examination of experts in the fields of serology, ballistics, gunshot residue, and forensic pathology. The jury found Charles Cabiness guilty of 1st degree murder. (I also prosecuted Luzay Watson for the murder of Davon Young and he too was found guilty by a jury of 1st degree murder).

2: Commonwealth v. James Hill
CP-02-CR-0009750-2013

- A) **Trial dates:** August 12, 2014 – August 18, 2014.
- B) **Court and Judge:** This case was tried before the Honorable David R. Cashman in the Court of Common Pleas.
- C) **Defense Counsel:** Robert L. Foreman
600 Grant Street, Suite 660
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-227-5977

On April 11, 2013, at approximately 1:30 AM, Pittsburgh Police Officer Morgan Jenkins was on patrol in the Homewood area of Pittsburgh when he observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed that failed to stop at a posted stop sign. Officer Jenkins activated his lights and siren in an attempt to make a traffic stop but the vehicle fled. Due to the high speeds and reckless nature of driving, the vehicle crashed into a wall and came to a stop. As Officer Jenkins approached the vehicle, the driver, James Hill, began exiting despite commands to remain in the vehicle. Hill fled and Officer Jenkins ran after him into a wooded area. Hill, who was in possession of a firearm, fired several shots at Officer Jenkins. One of the bullets penetrated Officer Jenkins' spinal cord, permanently paralyzing him from the waist down.

This case is significant to me due to the current negative climate surrounding police. While much of the negativity is deserved due to certain horrible abuses by individual police officers, not every police officer should be condemned. Officer Jenkins became a police officer for noble reasons and was willing to risk his life in the performance of his duty.

I represented the Commonwealth in this matter as the sole trial attorney. I argued all preliminary motions, selected the jury, opened to the jury, conducted direct examination on all Commonwealth witnesses, of which there were approximately 20, cross examined the defense witnesses to include the defendant, and closed to the jury. In addition to calling lay witnesses to the stand, I also conducted the direct examination of experts in the fields of serology, DNA comparison, ballistics, and neurosurgery. The jury found James Hill guilty of aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer, criminal attempt homicide, person not to possess firearms, and fleeing or attempting to elude police officers.

3: Commonwealth v. Daniel Russell
CP-02-CR-0006310-2017

- A) **Trial dates:** November 12, 2019 – November 21, 2019
- B) **Court and Judge:** This case was tried before the Honorable David R. Cashman in the Court of Common Pleas.
- C) **Defense Counsel:** T. Brent McCune
225 Ross Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-261-4444

On February 21, 2017, at approximately 2:00 AM, Daniel Russell called for a Z-Trip cab for the purpose of robbing the driver. When the cab arrived, Russell, along with three of his friends, pulled the driver, Ramadhan Mohamed, out of the cab. Mohamed had no cash and posed no threat

to the four assailants, yet they proceeded to beat him unconscious by kicking and punching him repeatedly. Russell was the main aggressor and repeatedly kicked Mohamed in the head even after he lost consciousness. In the 24 hours following the assault, Daniel Russell took to social media. He bragged about robbing a Z-Trip driver on Facebook and he also posted a video of himself and a friend hanging out, listening to music and occasionally dancing.

At trial, the neurologist testified that the injuries to Mohamed's head and brain were so severe that they could be compared to the trauma caused by hitting your head against a telephone pole at 30 miles per hour. Ultimately, Mr. Mohamed succumbed to the brain injuries and was pronounced deceased a few days later.

I was the chief prosecuting attorney on this case. Due to the voluminous nature of the case, in that approximately 40 Commonwealth witnesses testified, I had a second chair assist me by conducting the examination of the pathologist, neurologist, and DNA expert. I argued all preliminary motions, picked the jury, opened to the jury, conducted direct on the majority of the Commonwealth witnesses, and closed to the jury. The jury found Daniel Russell guilty of 2nd degree murder, robbery, and conspiracy to commit robbery. (The other three co-defendants are pending trial).

Of significance to me in this case, as in all homicide cases, is the loss of life. Mr. Mohamed was a Somalian refugee who was providing for his wife and children with the money he earned from his job as a Z-Trip driver. The suffering he endured for no reason is horrifying and his death is a tragedy.

The loss of life in this case, however, extends to Daniel Russell as well in the sense that at age 20 he was sentenced to life in prison; and that is not lost on me. As I looked at him receiving his sentence I just felt sadness. Despite what Daniel Russell did, at that particular moment, I saw a vulnerable kid. I was left thinking about what happened to him in his childhood that got him to the point where he could be so angry and disconnected. It is crucial as a prosecutor to at least attempt to see the humanity in everyone. This perspective is not new to me but was reinforced through the course of this trial making it one of the more significant matters I have litigated.

4: Commonwealth v. Erskine Smith **CP-02-CR-0017065-2005**

A) **Trial dates:** May 7, 2007 – May 11, 2007.

B) **Court and Judge:** This case was tried before the Honorable Donald E. Machen in the Court of Common Pleas.

C) **Defense Counsel:** Veronica Brestensky
429 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1204
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-719-3577

On November 9, 2005, Tracy Pollard returned home from work to find her son, Johnny Hutson, age 19, and his friend, Daniel Underwood, age 17, murdered. The evidence introduced at trial showed that prior to Ms. Pollard returning home, Erskine Smith was at the Pollard residence playing video games with the two victims and Marlin Sanders. At some point Hutson and Smith got into an argument over who had a nicer firearm. With the argument seemingly over they returned to playing video games. When it was Hutson's turn to play the game with Underwood, Smith shot Hutson in the head. Underwood got up to run and Smith shot him in the back of the head. Erskine Smith later gave a statement claiming self-defense.

I represented the Commonwealth in this matter as the sole trial attorney. I argued all preliminary motions, selected the jury, opened to the jury, conducted direct examination on all Commonwealth witnesses, of which there were approximately 20, cross examined the defense witnesses, and closed to the jury. In addition to calling lay witnesses to the stand, I also conducted the direct examination of experts in the fields of forensic pathology, serology, DNA comparison, and ballistics. The jury found Erskine Smith guilty of two counts of 1st degree murder.

I wanted to be an assistant district attorney because I wanted to help victims of crime. When I think back on this case what I remember most is the gratitude I received from the mother of Johnny Hutson. She seemed to be in disbelief that someone who had never met her son before could care so much about getting her a sense of justice. The significance of this case to me was being appreciated by the people who I strive to help.

5: Commonwealth v. Rojanai Alston

CP-02-CR-0008021-2019

D) **Preliminary Hearing date:** July 18, 2019.

E) **Court and Judge:** The preliminary hearing was heard before the Honorable Roxanne S. Eichler in Magisterial District 05-2-11.

F) **Defense Counsel:** Kenneth J. Haber
304 Ross Street, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-338-9990

Rojanai Alston was charged with criminal attempt homicide and aggravated assault for shooting Ericka Dennis in the North Versailles Walmart on July 5, 2019. The charges were held for court on July 18, 2019. I represented the Commonwealth at the preliminary hearing and Ken Haber represented Alston.

I did not select to discuss this case as a measure of my courtroom experience. The litigation was limited to the preliminary hearing in which I called only one witness before resting my case. I chose this case because it shows another side of what I do as a prosecutor.

After the preliminary hearing I spoke with defense counsel, Ken Haber. He provided me with additional background on the case. He explained that his client was being repeatedly harassed by Ms. Dennis and that on this particular day Ms. Dennis and another individual intentionally targeted his client at the Walmart and that his client acted in self-defense. He further offered to bring his client in to give a statement as to what happened.

Ms. Alston was 22 years old when this incident occurred. She had never been arrested before, had a valid license to carry a concealed firearm, and was employed. I do not take my responsibility as a prosecutor lightly and I realize the decisions I make can have lifetime consequences on people's lives. When Mr. Haber approached me, I listened. I asked the detectives to interview Ms. Alston and to further investigate the harassment claims.

After the follow up investigation I made the decision to withdraw the charges against Ms. Alston. I believe many prosecutors with less experience would have proceeded on the charges. It was a situation in which by the letter of the law an argument could have been made that Ms. Alston was not acting in self-defense. Based on my trial experience, however, I knew with certainty that Ms. Alston would be acquitted at trial. Furthermore, I believed that under this particular set of facts, the right thing to do was to withdraw the charges.

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: **N/A**
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: **N/A**
- 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: **N/A**
17. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates: **N/A**
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: **N/A**
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.
- 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:
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? **No.** If so, give details. Do not include summary traffic offenses:
21. Are you under any ongoing federal, state or local investigation or indictment for possible violation of a criminal statute? **No.** If so, give particulars:
22. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? **No.** If so, give particulars:

23. Have you ever been sued by a client? **No.** If so, give particulars:
24. Have you ever been a party or otherwise involved in any other legal proceedings? **No.** 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:
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? **No.** If so, give the particulars:
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? **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? **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: **I am submitting a brief which is 100% my personal work.**
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).
1. **Allegheny County Bar Association**
 2. **Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association**
30. List your experiences in teaching and lecturing, including law school, continuing legal education and to non-legal audiences.
1. **Concealed Carry Seminar, Pittsburgh Technical College, 1111 McKee Road, Oakdale, PA 15071, August 20, 2016**
This seminar was open to the public. I presented on the laws that pertain to carrying a concealed firearm in Allegheny County, reciprocity of firearm laws with other states, and the Castle Doctrine.
 2. **Dorie Miller Gun Club, Haymaker Point Clubhouse, 100 Horizon Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146, October 20, 2018**
I taught the members of this club the laws pertaining to carrying a concealed firearm as well as the laws that pertain to self-defense and the Castle Doctrine.
 3. **Zone 6 Public Safety meeting, Sheraden Healthy Active Living Center, 720 Sherwood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15204, March 26, 2019**
I lectured to community members regarding Self-defense/Castle Doctrine Laws.

4. Clean Slate & Pardons Workshop, Rhonda D. Wright Family Center, 8350 Frankstown Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221, January 16, 2020

I presented to community members an overview of the expungement laws as far as what crimes qualify for expungement and how to apply for an expungement.

5. Mock Trial Competition, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, 3900 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, November 15, 2020

I scored the participants of the competition regarding their opening statements, closing arguments, and direct and cross examinations, as well as provided each student with individualized critique and advice.

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:

I am a member of Rodef Shalom Synagogue.

I am a member of the Jewish Community Center.

I was a member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity when I attended Carnegie Mellon University.

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. **N/A**

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. **N/A**

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?

I have been practicing in the Criminal Division of the Court of Common Pleas for 22 years. I have spent thousands of hours in the courtroom and have litigated before approximately 50 different judges throughout my career. I have appeared before judges who have a profound understanding of the law and bring dignity, humanity, and honor to the bench- judges I respect and will strive to emulate from the bench. I have also practiced before judges that do not exemplify what we should demand from our judiciary - judges that are unnecessarily intolerant and disrespectful who lack objectivity and empathy.

What motivates me to seek this position is really what has motivated my entire career - a passion for justice, a commitment to protecting communities, and the desire to help people redirect the course of their lives when and where I can. This is not a job of convenience for me; I am not just throwing my name in the hat because there are numerous openings. I take the role of being a judge seriously. I am aware that the decisions a judge makes impact not only the individual and their families, but also communities as a whole. I have given the thought of running for judge great consideration and I do not enter this endeavor lightheartedly.

I believe I am well qualified to be a judge on the Court of Common Pleas. My trial experience in particular has helped me develop a thorough knowledge of the law, trial advocacy, and courtroom procedure. I have tried approximately 50 homicide cases to verdict and in doing so have gained significant perspective as I prepared intensely for each case.

Preparations which required me to visit crime scenes in poverty-stricken communities and interview in depth the witnesses, their family members, and others who live there. For better or worse, I have seen a lot and learned to keep an open mind and deeply consider the full context of people's lives when assessing a case. Saying you are open minded is easy. Being open minded takes perspective as well as the desire to understand other people's points of view.

As a prosecutor I do not view every defendant as a bad person. I recognize that some people make terrible mistakes as opposed to being a career criminal. As a judge, I will have compassion. I will not only consider the crime when sentencing, but rather the individual and the context of their lived experiences. I will make an effort to understand why someone did what they did. I see prison as a last resort and will strive to sentence people with an eye towards rehabilitation and reintegration.

My cases as a prosecutor are never about me and my courtroom would never be about me either. It would be about the accused and the victims that come before me; the prosecutor and the defense attorney, as well as the personnel that make the courtroom function from sheriff, to law clerk, to intern. I will treat everyone who comes before me with respect and I will be mindful of people's time. I recognize that there will always be people who are smarter than me and more knowledgeable in certain subject matter. I will actively seek out their guidance, listen and learn. I admit when I am wrong and do not let my ego interfere with my judgement or treatment of people.

I am keenly aware of the impact the criminal justice system has on individuals, their families, and their futures. As a husband and father of three children, I know firsthand the commitment and importance of family and understand the responsibility that comes when sentencing individuals who will appear before me. I know that these are moments where families may be separated and lives are changed forever. That is why having a balanced approach, looking beyond the crime charges and into the background of the person is fundamental to making such critical decisions.

My two decades of experience working in the criminal justice system has taught me that there are usually two sides to every story. Everyone is capable of misrepresenting the truth, intentionally or unintentionally, from witnesses, to victims, and even police officers. I have learned to never prejudge a situation. I will always listen to both sides with an open mind before rendering a verdict or imposing a sentence. I take the presumption of innocence seriously. Every case is different and will stand on its own. I will not view the Commonwealth and defense as good or bad, simply as two sides.

As a judge I will be impartial, patient, and respectful to all. I have the legal acumen and experience to make difficult and, at times, unpopular decisions. I want to be a judge because I believe I can make a positive difference in people's lives. I want the chance to get to that kid before they get to the point of no return. Most of the homicide defendants I prosecuted had a criminal history that escalated to the point where they were then on trial for murder. Some people could be steered in other directions, and as a judge I would have the ability to do so. Incarceration is often not the answer. It should be reserved for the violent people we need to be protected from. I believe strongly in giving people another chance, where appropriate, and will take sentencing and bail reform seriously to ensure our criminal justice system is inclusive and just for all.

35. Did you sign the ACBA Judicial Campaign Advertising Guidelines Pledge? **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.

Ilan Zur

Type or print name

Signature

Date

1.16.21

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

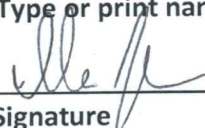
As a candidate or potential candidate for Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, the Pennsylvania Appellate Courts or the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, I hereby acknowledge and authorize the procedures of the Allegheny County Bar Association Committee on the Judiciary, including the following:

1. If I become a candidate, the Allegheny County Bar Association Committee on the Judiciary will make available to the public the Questionnaire, Supplemental 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. The Committee's rating of any person shall expire two (2) years from the date on which the person's evaluation was completed; provided, however, when the rating period expires during the year of a Municipal Election cycle, the rating shall expire on December 31, of that year.
4. Should I receive a *Not Recommended at this time* or *Unqualified* 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 Committee on the Judiciary. 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 Committee on the Judiciary. I hereby specifically waive any confidentiality rights I may have in those records.
7. The Allegheny County Bar Association Committee on the Judiciary may change, during the course of my campaign for office, the original rating assigned to me for cause.

1/16/21

Date

Ilan Zur

Type or print name


Signature

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

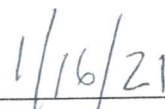
JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE

I, Ilan Zur, 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



Signature of Candidate



Date