

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 If I withdraw from the race, the rating will not be announced and the questionnaires will not be published.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.

WARENNA WATSON

Type or print name



Signature

25 March 2021

Date

**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:

WRENN A LEIGH WATSON

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

WRENN A L. WATSON; WRENN A WATSON

2. Office address (include zip code):

***1700 WYLIE AVENUE
PITTSBURGH PA 15219***

Office telephone (include area code):

4129657388

Name of law firm, if associated:

3. Date and place of birth:

24 April 1954; Montefiore Hospital, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

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:

No

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

No

6. Have you had any military service? If so,
a) Give dates, branch of service, rank of rate, and present status:
No
- b) Have you ever been rejected or released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable? 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:
Howard University 1975 – 1979, Bachelor of Science
Duquesne University School of Law 1986 – 1991, Juris Doctor
Howard University – Tuition Scholarship; Psi Chi Honor Society
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 Supreme Court – 1992
United States District Court – 1993
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:
Law Clerk – The Honorable J. Warren Watson
Law Clerk – The Honorable Robert C. Watson
- b) Whether you practiced alone and, if so, the addresses and the dates:
Solo Practitioner
1700 Wylie Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15219

- 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:

*1984-1985 City of Pittsburgh Pension Office
1985-1987 Adult Probation and Parole Officer
1987-1991 Judicial Tipstaff
1991-1993 Judicial Law Clerk
1992-pres Watson Law Offices, solo practitioner, General practice
1993-1995 Assistant General Counsel/Section 8 Hearing Officer, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh
1995-pres Mental Health Review Officer, Orphans' Court Division, Civil Commitment Hearings
1995-2000 Conflict Child/Parent Advocate - Juvenile Section (Delinquency and Dependency)
2000-2003 Judge of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court
2004-2012 Solicitor - Office of the Controller of Allegheny County
2004-2008 Hearing Examiner - PA Liquor Control Board Hearing Examiner, Western PA and Erie
2006-2014 Chair - Pittsburgh City Planning Commission Public Hearings and Board Meetings
2006-2014 Chair - Pittsburgh Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearings, Board Meetings, Hearing Officer
2017-2020 Legislative Director – Pittsburgh City Council, Office of Councilwoman Darlene M. Harris*

- d) Any other relevant particulars:

As you may perceive from my questionnaire as you read through it, my career and practice have been different. Not exactly by my design. I am a 29-year practicing attorney with 26 years of adjudicating cases in a variety of areas of the law. I began going to court immediately after passing the bar while I was clerking. I took whatever variety of cases came my way. My clients were family and friend referrals, NAACP referrals, persons in the community that needed help. It was not lucrative, but I was helping people. I began to realize that I didn't want to take every case nor every client. I began to filter more of what I preferred.

I was a single mother. I had just purchased my home and we had a change in elected officials, and I knew the entire legal department would be replaced or, so I was told. And, it was. I decided to run for City Council, my councilman (a lifelong friend) had passed. It was a great run for a newcomer to running for an open seat against a few seasoned politicians. I came in 2nd. Honestly, I had no real income. Private practice does not mushroom overnight. And, I was a single mom with a new house and a mortgage. During that year, I was offered the position of Mental Health Review Officer by the Honorable Judge Robert Kelly one day when I just happened to be in Orphans' Court (probably visiting my Dad). To my surprise, it was a great fit! It was a opportunity to use both of my areas of study: psychology and law. It was a part-time contract and I was able to continue practicing. During that time, one of the cases I had been referred from the NAACP was in juvenile court, a dependency matter representing a foster parent. I didn't realize it initially, but I had found a home in juvenile court. I loved it!

I loved representing children. And, I was good at it. I had found my niche. I was in court every day usually all day for several years until I was appointed as Judge of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court. From that point forward, I have received various appointments to positions usually presiding over some type of hearings. I juggled different schedules doing something different every day. And, always had private cases in between. It was a joy! I counsel people and private legal matters every day. I help people.

My daughter graduated from Schenley (as did I and all of my siblings, some nieces and nephews) in 2002. When I attended law school, I described myself as a single, full-time, working, mother, student. I worked full-time in the day, attended law school full-time at night (it is full-time, the bank gives you money for full-time, its just 1 class less than day school), and single parented. It was a

grind but what an achievement! I am happy and proud to say that my daughter, Michelle, is 36 y.o. and very successful doing and loving all things real estate. I currently live with my 98 y.o. Dad, the Honorable Judge J. Warren Watson. He retired at the age of 80 and sat the Common Pleas bench for nearly 40 years, as one of the 1st elected Black judges in Allegheny County. He wasn't ready to retire and decided to activate his lawyer's license. I came to stay with him 3 years ago when my Mom, his wife of 45 years passed. He is well, still plays his horn with his band. What a Blessing! And, we both have puppies. His is gigantic and mine is little. We are in Dad's home, my childhood home.

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?

In 29 years of practice, I represented hundreds to thousands of children, families, business owners and persons in the community in every division of the court, the lower courts and various agencies. In 26 of my 29 years of practice, I have adjudicated over 50,000 cases as a Judge of the Minor Judiciary. I heard over 22,000 cases as Judge of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court and sit as a Mental Health Review Officer adjudicating civil commitment hearings for 26 years. I sat as a PA Liquor Control Board Hearing Examiner, and Chaired the Pittsburgh City Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustments for 8 years in addition to having served as a Section 8 Grievance Hearing Officer for the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, my first hearing officer position.

I thoroughly enjoyed practice in Juvenile Court, especially representing children. I was a conflict child advocate in delinquency and dependency cases. I also represented parents as a conflict parent advocate and foster parents. My first, actual trial was before the Honorable Judge Jaffe who screamed at me for what seemed to be a long while because I questioned a CYF staff whether there were any persons of color that ever worked with my client who was a Black woman that I believed had some intellectual disabilities and felt persecuted by the system. At the end, I was smiling because I wasn't crying. I realized I was an attorney. I felt like that was my christening. What I didn't know (and the then Judge Craig smiled and relayed to me was that Judge Jaffe had been blasted that morning on the front page of the paper about the "Baby Byron Case"). I represented 4-8 cases a day would be there all day and often late evening and occasionally very late at night.

When I became a City Magistrate, I was still permitted to practice but due to the amount of time juvenile cases required, I was not able to continue practicing in that division as a conflict advocate but was still retained privately. I could not be there all day. I had a general practice with a variety of clients in various divisions.

Following the order by the Supreme Court to eliminate the positions of the City Magistrates, I maintained a general practice. I resumed acting as conflict counsel in juvenile court matters. Additionally, I handled guardianships, adoptions, estates, criminal, arbitration, landlord-tenant, DUI, traffic, unemployment compensation, a variety of magistrate court hearings as well as other types of cases.

In 2004, I was appointed the Solicitor to the Office of the Allegheny County Controller, Mark Patrick Flaherty. I wrote and reviewed all contracts, reviewed and approved contractor's Bonds, worked to review and rewrite constable rules, handled all legal complaints and matters presented to our office including employment and human resources matters, unemployment compensation claims, civil rights claims/discrimination matters, worked with the Public Relations Director regarding HIPAA and created the policies for the dissemination of information and the Right to Know matters, worked on and wrote the contract with PNC to distribute debit cards to senior care workers and OCYF payment recipients (cost savings to county eliminating paper checks), also I included language to eliminate bank fees to the recipients so that their money would not be

diminished by bank card fee charges, worked on project to improve and set up tax collecting by the county, reviewed the contract to use Jordan Tax Services, worked with every department as needed, and the other row offices.

When I held the position as solicitor, I also was engaged in several part-time contractual positions. Every day was different. I was appointed to hear License cases for the PA Liquor Control Board for Western PA and Erie. When it was time for a licensee to renew their license, if they had violations during the term of the expiring license the LCB may seek to not renew the license. I heard the appeals. Primarily from the denials to renew the licenses but also denials to approve various applications, such as the request by a licensee to place their license in safe-keeping and allow that licensee to work for another licensed operation while their license was in safe-keeping.

Additionally, I chaired the Pittsburgh City Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustments simultaneously over an 8-year period. I am the only Black to chair both boards simultaneously. Appointed by Mayor Bob O'Connor and retained by Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Pittsburgh experienced a renaissance in development during this time. There was a tremendous amount of development all over Pittsburgh in the various business districts including downtown and the Golden Triangle and in the neighborhoods. Through the hearing process we ensured compliance with the Zoning Code by developers, contractors and architects while balancing the concerns of the existing residents in the communities. I personally encouraged developers to improve or enhance their designs to promote the beautification of Pittsburgh and gently scoffed at mediocre designs that were not characteristic to the community, the plan and our city. It was awesome to be a significant part of the development of our city in these roles. We also held public hearings for legislative changes to the Zoning Code regarding the permission to keep bees, raise chickens, the creation of specially planned districts around the city, the residential parking permit program and many other additions and changes to the Code. Often, we held hearings and worked to solve the new problems that developed as a result of the changes in the neighborhoods.

I was appointed as the legislative director for the Office of Pittsburgh City Councilwoman Darlene M. Harris. Weekly, I reviewed every piece of legislation being presented in City Council and prepared a Briefing of each piece for the Councilwoman. I, also, worked jointly with other council offices to collaborate on joint legislation to be submitted, and prepared and drafted legislation for Councilwoman Harris. I handled constituent concerns, needs, and complaints. I attended community meetings on behalf of the Councilwoman. I handled any matter to or from the law department including information requests under the right to know act, as well as worked with the law department, and handled all other legal concern which came to the office. It was a very busy office daily.

Over the last year with the pandemic, I have conducted hearings by conference on the computer. My practice is still general in nature but seems to be weighted to assisting people caring for their elderly parents (just as I came to live with my 98 y.o. Father, the retired Honorable J. Warren Watson, who is doing very well). And, I do house calls because a lot of the elderly are not as mobile.

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

Most of clients are persons of modest means to persons on the lower economic scale, a mix of races, mothers and their children, other family members raising children, elderly persons wanting to protect themselves and their assets or caretakers seeking to provide care. Many persons of varying walks of life with the range of circumstances needing assistance. As previously stated, I thoroughly enjoyed practice in Juvenile Court representing children in delinquency and dependency cases. I would visit my clients in Shuman Center in preparation for court, but also, represented children at detention hearings there. I was also appointed to act as Guardian ad litem in termination cases where I would be assigned to serve the Petition for Termination on a respondent/parent and read

and explain the Petition to them and explain their rights and provide them with numbers for court appointed counsel/advocates. Sometimes you have single mothers that just need some help trying to keep their child / children from getting to far off track (usually teen age) begging the system to help them before they lose their children to the streets (boys and girls).

I assisted friends, family and clients with guardianships and estate work; families caring for their elderly parent(s) who may need a Power of Attorney or a guardianship, Living Will/Healthcare Power of Attorney and a Will. Even guardianships of minor children receiving funds from a deceased parent, or a parent caring for an adult child with intellectual disabilities, or a family member who wants to get their family member out of a care facility and the facility administrators refuse to let them go.

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:

During the bulk of the last 5 years I was working at City Council. I did appear on behalf of our office at hearings weekly in matters related to our district and the constituents. My appearances in court with private clients were occasional.

- b) What percentage of these appearances was in:

1. Federal courts:

I don't believe I appeared in Federal court in the last 5 years.

2. State courts of record:

I appeared on occasion in the Orphans' Court Division and the Criminal Division in Allegheny County and other counties such as Indiana, Butler, Westmoreland, Dolphin.

3. Other courts:

I appeared before various magistrates around this County including City Court, Traffic Court, Arraignments, and other counties such as Somerset, Indiana, Butler, Westmoreland.

- c) What percentage of your litigation was:

1. Civil:

50%

2. Criminal:

50%

- 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 was always sole counsel. I tried cases here and in other counties. I do not know the number. 3 years ago I came to stay with my Dad after my Mom passed. My records are not here with me. In the past 5 years, I worked a very full and hectic schedule with Councilwoman Harris working very late into the evening at least twice a week preparing for council meetings and attending evening public hearings. I attended all hearings related to Council District 1. Representing the office of Councilwoman Harris, I generally presented the desires of her constituents as was always her perspective. I was able to handle a few private cases here and there but that was not the bulk of my work in the last 5 years.

- e) What percentage of these trials were:

1. Jury:
None in the last 5 years.

2. Non-jury:
100%

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:

Prior to appointment as Judge of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court, I was in court every day, somewhere. As previously indicated, I was in juvenile court every day with 4 to 8 cases as a conflict child advocate for dependency cases and as conflict defense counsel in delinquency matters. In addition to juvenile matters, I handled guardianships, adoptions and estates cases. I handled criminal, some civil and family matters. Additionally, I have continuously adjudicated hearings in various areas of the law since 1993. While I was a magistrate, my primary work became that of a trier of fact, and adjudicator whether as a magistrate or as a hearing officer. As a City of Pittsburgh magistrate, I presided in every court: criminal, child sex assault, domestic violence, underage drinking, DUI, traffic, animal and housing courts. I decided felony and misdemeanor criminal and traffic preliminary hearings pursuant to the PA Crimes and Vehicle Codes; conducted arraignments and set bonds; issued warrants, adjudicated summary criminal, traffic, housing and animal court matters pursuant to PA statutes and the City ordinances, imposing fines, community service and jail, as applicable. I often diverted Defendants when appropriate to domestic abuse counseling, parental and/or life skills counseling, mental health and/or drug and alcohol assessment and treatment. My work as a probation and parole officer and a mental health hearing officer gave me the insight to often recognize the need for assessment and treatment rather than following the path toward a conviction. I disposed of 35-75 cases per session, morning, afternoon and/or night traffic. I frequently presided 2 or 3 sessions in one day. I disposed of over 22,000 cases as a City magistrate. It is a high-volume court.

As a Mental Health Review Officer, I travel to every hospital in Allegheny County that has a locked psychiatric unit or locked residential facility conducting civil commitments pursuant to the Pennsylvania Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976, where under §302, a person who has done something dangerous to themselves or to another and they are disabled by a severe mental illness (recognized under the DSMV-IV or V) can be held involuntarily with authorization of the county on a locked psychiatric unit in a hospital to be assessed by a psychiatrist to determine what level of treatment, if any, is the least restrictive but appropriate alternative. If the doctor determines the person (Patient) needs treatment beyond the initial 302 period, the doctor will file a Petition under §303 requesting extended care and the Patient has a right to have a hearing. Patient's also have the right to have a hearing pursuant to petitions filed under §304-306. The cases are presented by attorneys for both sides, assistant county solicitors presenting the case for the hospital and the county and public defenders representing the patients with an occasional private counsel appearance. I rule on objections, motions and the admissibility of evidence, deciding each case based on the facts, applicable case, statutory and constitutional laws, issue findings and a decision. I make a clean record and substantiate my decision in the event of an appeal. My rulings have been upheld on appeal including at the Superior Court level.

I was contracted by the Commonwealth to preside over public liquor license hearings for Western Pennsylvania and Erie. Most of the cases I heard were regarding whether a licensee or a prospective licensee should be issued a license, renewal or new, respectively. It is another area of law that has its own set of regulations and case law. The cases were interesting and presented interesting legal issues. Most often but not always the Licensee would be represented by counsel. Neighbors would often appear, usually to object to the issuance of the license.

As chair of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustments, the ZBA met weekly and Planning Commission every other week. Many of the hearings were presented by attorneys. Some were presented by developers, architects, contractors and many also pro se. A lot of neighbors and city residents attended these hearings to object or support the various developments whether business development or a development in their backyard (neighborhood). We heard variances, conditional uses, development review, special exceptions and every aspect of the Zoning Code. We held public hearings. We reviewed and re-wrote changes to the Code and ordinances. Some of the hearings were on keeping bees and chickens in the city, the Casino, the Consol Center, Stage A&E, Bakery Square, Southside Works, apartments in the Golden Triangle and all over the City, the development of Lawrenceville, Market Square, South Side, North Side, Target, East Liberty, Homewood and the Hill District. There were so many major and small projects we reviewed, made changes to and approved or denied. We also heard historic review matters, and many other matters under the Code. Often the hearings were exceptionally contentious. I maintained order and ensured everyone was heard and treated civilly and with respect.

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

I my years of practice prior to becoming a magistrate, I did try a news profiled case as a criminal jury trial. The jury decided in our favor with a verdict of not guilty even though the evidence was heavily weighted against us. The ADA even had the television news footage of the incident which he played 3 times during the hearing. The Judge followed the path taken by the jury and dismissed the summary charges as well.

Prior to appointment as magistrate, I was in court just about every day. Following appointment as magistrate I was appointed to sit in various minor judiciary positions and conduct hearings. I still maintained a minimal practice. I was in court almost every day however rather than representing a litigant I was presiding over and deciding cases.

As a judge of the minor judiciary, I have adjudicated over 50,000 cases. As Judge of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court I handles over 22,000 cases. As indicated, I served as a PA Liquor Board Hearing Examiner, simultaneously chaired Pittsburgh City Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustments for 8 years and serve as a Mental Health Review Officer for 26 years. Some of these positions overlapped and were contractual. As a magistrate, we received a schedule monthly. You were generally scheduled to sit 4 benches per week and night traffic once a month, however, you could trade with other magistrates to accommodate each other's scheduling needs. LCB hearings had set hearing dates with multiple hearings on the schedule but were more periodic. We received a schedule for mental health hearings monthly. As a part-time contractor, I may be scheduled about 6 days and the hearing officers trade days to accommodate schedule needs for each other also. For the most part, I was hearing cases every day, sometimes I sat 2 or 3 sessions in a day. But I loved my positions.

When the City magistrate positions were eliminated, I took the opportunity to seek the position of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Historically, it seemed like a good position from which to run a successful campaign. Following the Primary, I continued as a hearing officer and resumed my practice. At the end of the year, I was offered the part-time contractual position as solicitor to the Office of the County Controller, Mark Patrick Flaherty. Mark believed I could maintain my other contracts and perform my duties as solicitor. While managing these contractual duties, Mayor Bob O'Connor appointed me to chair Planning and Zoning. Zoning was also a contract and the Planning Commission was volunteer. Zoning was once a week on Thursdays and Planning was every other Tuesday afternoon. The schedules were manageable but kept me busy. I maintained a small practice mostly helping people that I knew in areas of law that I preferred referring other

cases.

Most of the positions I have held were appointments by elected officials. When the elected official is no longer in office, the newly elected person appoints persons of their choosing. As the chair of the Zoning Board, I remember that we were all asked to submit our resignations. I don't have an issue with being replaced by the newly elected official. And many persons on the various boards stopped immediately with no replacements for months. However, in the case regarding the ZBA, had we stopped without replacements, the cases would have backlogged, and the developers, contractors and community persons would have suffered. There were no replacements for us for 4 months. Having true concern for our City and having the knowledge that construction costs increase every quarter, the ZBA board members continued to conduct the hearings for months into the new term until new members were appointed. And, we still have never been paid.

- 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.

No significant changes.

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;

I represented a woman in an unemployment compensation hearing. She had worked as an RN at UPMC Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic for 18 years. One day she didn't return to work and moved from Pittsburgh to Atlanta where some of her family had already moved. She applied for unemployment compensation and was denied. UPMC said she had quit which bars one from receiving unemployment. And, that fact couldn't be denied. She had. She was, however, in therapy as a result of being in a 9 year domestically violent, physically, emotionally and psychologically abusive cohabitating relationship with her paramour. We had a 5-hour hearing at the Unemployment Compensation Board. I presented her background and history as an employee which was good to excellent. It didn't make sense to anyone that she just left suddenly. I, also, presented her doctor as an expert witness who testified to the nature of abusive relationships and that they become increasingly dangerous over time and that in this case, her life was imminently at risk. We won. We beat UPMC who, of course, appealed. But I filed a brief and we won the appeal, also.

While defending children in Juvenile court, PA enacted a new legislation, Act 33, which among other things, promulgated that children involved in a violent crime with a weapon would be treated as an adult, put in jail with adults and tried, convicted and sentenced as adults. I tried 7 of the 1st de-certification cases which were tried, at that time, in Juvenile court before the Juvenile judges. Prior to Act 33, when a child turned 18, his/her juvenile record closed, now any felonies would remain an open part of their record and remain a part of their record as an adult. These children were very troubled with layers of negative home circumstances, but they did not deserve to be in the adult system. They needed structure, treatment, education, training, guidance and support to hopefully get on a good track and become a reasonably normal, productive and contributing

member of society (isn't that the goal of both juvenile and criminal cases). In each case, the children were de-certified and then adjudicated with a disposition in the juvenile system. Not long after, the decision was made to have the de-certification cases tried in the criminal division.

In magistrate's court, a case came before me where a rather hippie looking man probably in his 40's had a larger than gallon sized baggie of loosely packed marijuana. This was prior to medical marijuana. He was charged with (1) count of possession and (1) count of possession with the intent to deliver, the standard charges for that circumstance. When I called the case, the ADA and the defense Attorney had worked out a deal to withdraw the (1) count of possession with the intent to deliver and the defendant would waive the possession. It is a great deal by most standards as the Intent to Deliver charge carries a heavier sentence. I signed off on the deal. A few months later, the exact same case came in front of me: a larger than gallon sized baggie of loosely packed marijuana and the same charges had been applied, (1) count of possession and (1) count of possession with the intent to deliver, again the standard charges. The difference in this case was that the defendant was a young Black male in his 20's. When I called the case and everyone approached, I waited, I was expecting the ADA and the defense Attorney to tell me of the deal they had made, the same deal made in the prior, exact same case. When I realized there was no deal on the table, I took control of the case and told the ADA that the exact same case had been before me a few months before and how it had been handled and that I was going to handle this case so that we had a similar result as the prior case. I threw out the possession with the intent to deliver and allowed the possession charge to be waived to Court. That was my way of being fair and just.

Another case was called where narcotics agents had sat on, watched a house for a period and believed there was drug activity based on the amount of traffic. The day they decided to raid the house, they recovered 6 small bags of marijuana. Because it was individually bagged for sale, the charge was possession and possession with the intent to deliver. The under 30 grams of marijuana had been enacted by PA legislature. Even though the marijuana was packaged for sale, it was under 30 grams. I apologized to the officers indicating that I realized they had spent their time and City resources investigating this case but unfortunately on the day they decided to raid the house they only recovered what amounted to under 30 grams of marijuana, I was going to handle the case as I would any other case under 30 grams. I reduced the charges to Disorderly Conduct and imposed a \$50.00 fine. I could have Held the charges for court, but I didn't think that was appropriate under the circumstance.

In an LCB hearing, a woman, a Licensee, was the owner of license. Her business was suffering and was not producing enough income and therefore was eating away her savings. Not seeing a change in the near future and wanting to be proactive and prevent bankruptcy, foreclosure and the other possible negative effects of her business draining her finances, this licensee decided to seek employment and placed her license in safekeeping. She found a position with a brewing company. The LCB said no. It is a violation to have a license and to work for another licensee. In my opinion, when reading the LCB regulations, so long as her license was in safekeeping it is deactivated and would not constitute a violation by working at another licensee operation because her license was not in effective operation. Especially when you consider that we have a right to work. That application of the LCB regulations was unduly harsh and did not seem to be the intent of the legislation.

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:

In the past 5 years while I was conducting hearings as a hearing officer and prior to working in City Council, I maintained a private practice. I had cases with young people here and in other counties (Indiana, Butler, Westmoreland, Dauphin and Mercer). I was asked by their parents (friends or family members of friends) to represent their young adult children who were good people and needed help. I represented them at the District Magistrate level and in Common Pleas. Most were all fairly, minor criminal matters resulting in some form of ARD or probation with expungement. One was quite serious and seemed it was going to trial because there really was no deal. In fact, the ADA openly stated that the school and the county wanted to make an example of my case to show that this behavior would not be tolerated. The Defendant was a student, all of them were. I submitted 2 reports (a psychiatric exam and a socio/educational investigation/report). On the last day headed to trial, the ADA was softened by something in the report that the teacher said about the Defendant. He offered boot camp. I was elated. The Defendant served his time and came home and went to work.

I also represented a security business in cases where they were being sued by intoxicated people that got into altercations in a club where the business provided security. The cases did not proceed beyond Arbitration or settled.

I did a guardianship case in Dauphin County and a support case in Center County.

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:

No appellate practice.

- 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 held positions in the minor judiciary only.

- 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:

All of my positions have been appointed and are listed in #9. c).

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

In 1995, City Councilman (childhood friend and classmate) Christopher Smith had passed. When I paid my respects at the viewing and spoke to his Mother and Father (who was legally blind), I touched his hand and said who I was, Mr. Smith leapt from his seat, wrapped his arms around me and said, "Wrenna, Chris wanted you to run for his seat!" I was 1 of 11 candidates and the only woman and the only attorney. I placed. I was so green to politics. I still am not a politician.

2003, Court of Common Pleas Judge – I did not receive the endorsement and was asked to withdraw from the Primary and support the endorsed candidates in exchange I would receive support for the endorsement. I file a Petition to Withdraw. The ballots were already completed so my name was still on the ballot but they did not count the votes.

2005, Court of Common Pleas Judge – I was endorsed, and my name was submitted by Senator Jim Ferlo and I was nominated by Governor Rendell for appointment. The senate did not confirm the appointment.

2007, Court of Common Pleas Judge – I was endorsed, and my name was submitted by Senator Jim Ferlo and I was nominated by Governor Rendell for appointment. The senate did not confirm the appointment.

My belief was that I was in it until I win it! However in 2009, I was asked (it was strongly suggested) that I not run.

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:

I worked in television. I produced 80 Pirate home games and other sports. I developed and supervised an interns program for 10-20 college students in television communication studies from various colleges within the state working 20 hours/week learning all phases of in studio and field productions. I see one of my interns at Pirate games today. He is a cameraman, usually handheld. I, also, produced music videos and informational and talk shows.

I sold fine shoes and clothing at K. Barchetti, Inc., fine jewelry at JeNe Jewelry, and was a Clinique line rep selling beauty and cosmetics at the Joseph Horne Company Main.

19. Are you now an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise?

- 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.

No.

- 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? 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:

A tax lien was filed. It is satisfied. My taxes are up to date.

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

No.

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:

CSHA (my homeowners association) sued all the homeowners that had not paid dues. My funds were low, but we settled. My funds improved and I stay current.

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:

Around 1994, I did not complete a divorce case I had initiated. We were unable to locate the Wife who had moved out of town 25 years before. My jobs had ended, I packed and moved my office more than once and was on a new, hectic, full-time job. My client had been referred to me through a neighbor that worked at the Hill House. When he went back to my neighbor indicating the case was not complete, they didn't even try to call me (not that they had to because it certainly was my responsibility). I received a complaint to which I responded. I received a letter but no action. And nothing else beyond that.

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 work is my work. I attached a document.

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).

PBLA (Pittsburgh Black Lawyers Alliance)

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

Adjunct Professor, Point Park University Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies – Police and the Constitution

Substitute Professor (for Judge Cheryl Allen), Point Park University – Great Trials

Guest Lecturer, The Police Academy

Guest Speaker, NEED Male Mentoring Program with Bob Allen at Sto-Rocks High School – The Criminal Justice System and What Not To Do If You Are Being Arrested and Motivation

Substitute Professor, Carnegie Mellon University – Business Law

Guest Speaker, The Allen Place – Elder Law, Protecting Seniors and Loved Ones; What You Don't Know

Guest Speaker, Jack and Jill of America – The Criminal Justice System and What Not To Do If You Are Being Arrested and Motivation

Teacher, ACBA – Law in the Schools at Perry Traditional Academy

I have had many speaking engagements and continue to be asked to speak as a Guest Speaker for groups, organizations, schools, churches and the like. I love speaking, especially to young people.

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:

Mt Ararat Baptist Church

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

Howard University Alumnae

NEED (Negro Educational Emergency Drive), Board Vice President

Pittsburgh Black Lawyers' Alliance

PACE School Board

Womanspace East Board

Cambridge Who's Who, 2010 Professional of the Year Legal Services Industry

The Holy Family Institute/Social Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Camp Fire Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania

Venture Outdoors

Strong Women Strong Girls

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Historically Black College Tour Chaperone

Coalition of Labor Union Women

Pennsylvania Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession

Amen Corner
Old School Skills Camp Inc (Hill District Community Youth Basketball)
Kingston 's Who's Who Lifetime Member - 2003/2004 Directory
Swathmore's Who's Who - 2002/2003 Directory
Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation (HOBY)
Urban Scouting Committee, Boy Scouts of America
Parent School Community Council, East Hills International Studies Academy
American Inns of Court
Duquesne University School of Law Alumnae Association
Allegheny County Bar Association
Women's Bar Association
Homer S. Brown Law Association
City of Pgh/Roberto Clemente RBI-Girls Fast Pitch Softball Coach/Manager
Wilkinsburg Girls Softball Coach and Sponsor
Just Harvest
Baptist Temple Usher Board (Baptist Temple Church)
The Pioneers
National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club
Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
The Northeasterners
The Charms - National Legal Advisor
NAACP, Pittsburgh Chapter - Human Rights Dinner Committee
Junior League of Pittsburgh
The Church of the Holy Cross

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.

Psi Chi Honor Society

The School of Engineering Student Council – Secretary

The Howard Engineer Magazine (Glossy) – Layout Editor and Contributing Writer

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Pittsburgh Alumnae Newsletter

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.

Please see submitted documents:

Resume

Personal data sheet

Bio

Letter of Intent

News Media Release

Valentine Card

Hand Card

Big postcard

Website (link below)

:03 min video link (below)

:30 sec commercial (aired on WTAE and WPXI)link (below)

GOD is BLESSING you NOW...

Receive His Joy, Peace, and Love in abundance -

Wrenna L. Watson

I Love Wrenna for Judge

1700 Wylie Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

412.687.3342; 412.434.4939 fax

412.965.7388 (c)

WRENNA WATSON

CANDIDATE

JUDGE

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

www.wrennawatson.com

video link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AFy1tJDyYB8F2jmJ07v8aF2HdZ0HGrwn/view?usp=sharing#VOTEWATSON4JUDGE>

commercial link:

<https://vimeo.com/512952072?ref=em-share>

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 wanted to study psychology and be a lawyer since I was in middle school. My birth Mom received her master's degree in counselor education from the University of Pittsburgh. I used to read her psychology text books. It was interesting and fun. And, my Father talked about the law and his trials every day. My Father, brother and I debated daily. He taught us to use logical reasoning and the elements of major premise, minor premise and conclusion. In high school, I saw friends and acquaintances begin to have brushes with the police and saw that they did not know their rights. I knew I was more aware of our rights than others my age and I decided I wanted to be a lawyer to help others. I did not have a desire to be a judge. That desire was born in me after I held a few positions presiding over hearings. I found that I loved it and believed that I was good at it.

In addition to being a practicing attorney for 29 years representing children, families, business owners, and community persons, I have adjudicated over 50,000 cases in 26 of those years in various area of the law. As Judge of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court I decided criminal, child sex assault, domestic violence, homicide, traffic, dog / animal and housing cases (over 22,000 cases). I, also, conducted arraignments, set bail and issued warrants. I served as a PA Liquor Control Board Hearing Examiner for Western PA and Erie, am the 1st Black to serve simultaneously as the Chair of the Pittsburgh City Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustments (for 8 years), was a Section 8 Grievance Hearing Officer for the HACP and have served as a Mental Health Review Officer for the Orphans' Court Division (for 26 years).

I believe it is a positive that I possess other judicial qualities and strengths that I have exercised and exhibited from the bench for 26 years, not just talk about or say I possess. I am proven, tried and true. Anyone that has been in hearings over which I preside will say that I am fair, I listen to both sides of the case before making a decision, I allow a full and fair opportunity to be heard, and most importantly, I treat people with respect and ensure that everyone is treated with respect in my courtroom settings. I learned many things about being a good judge sitting with my Father on the bench, in chambers and at home. I certainly learned good judicial temperament and demeanor. I also learned excellence and preparation.

I have a wealth of life experiences growing up in the city, living in the Black community and continuing to live in the Black community. I raised my daughter as a single working Mother usually with limited funds and no child support. Believe me, that has provided me a very broad perspective of the circumstances of life. You know my Dad was a judge, my birth Mother an upward bound counselor trying to help high school students and track them to college. And many of you know my brother who is also an attorney and was a city magistrate and Common Pleas Judge by appointment. My sister was a wonderful Howard educated artist and teacher who was married to the former Mayor of Wilkinsburg. What you don't know is that I have close family members kind of on the other side of the law that experienced long term drug addiction, in and out of treatment facilities, criminal activity, incarceration and the gamut of situations that arise out of that lifestyle. I don't know that I have seen it all, but I have seen a lot. I believe it enhances your ability to be able to be fair, to be impartial, to treat people with respect (even when you are not deciding in their favor, to be unbiased).

We need diversity in our courts. People of color and women are 2 of the underrepresented classes. We've needed more diversity for too long of a time. 60-70% of respondents (at least in criminal and juvenile) are persons of color. Shouldn't we at least strive to be fair to all or to have the appearance of the same? I believe that Respondents should see a few more faces that look like them. Based on my experiences I'm well prepared to take the bench. I am well versed in various areas of the law; I love juvenile court which is where most new judges are assigned and often are like fish out of water

and cannot wait to get out. I could stay forever. I don't mean to sound conceited or cocky but I am well suited for the position of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Attorneys and lay persons alike have always told me if they had to be in court, they have enjoyed participating in proceedings over which I preside. I do a great job conducting hearings, I make sound and fair decisions based on the law, I am balanced in consideration of litigants, I control the order in the room and I make sure everyone is treated with respect.

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.

WRENNA WATSON

Type or print name



Signature

25 March 2021

Date

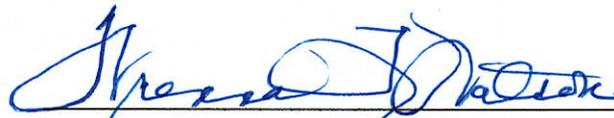
ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE

WRENNA WATSON

I, _____, 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

25 March 2021

Date