

2017 QUESTIONS FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Background

1. What **judicial or personal experiences** have prepared you for this office (i.e. organizations, boards/commissions, publications, speaking/teaching engagements, life experiences)?
2. **Why did you decide to run** for this office?
3. Describe your **major life influences** (especially any legal mentors or role models)?
4. Concerning **campaign management**:
 - a) Briefly explain your campaign structure. Do you have a campaign manager and/or team?
 - b) With whom did you consult prior to deciding to run for office? What advice did they give you?
 - c) What sites or features will you use on social media, if any? (Facebook, web site)
 - d) What is your strategy for raising money for your campaign? How much do you hope to have raised by the Primary? How much more for the General Election? What have you raised so far?
5. Which groups or prominent figures have **endorsed** you? Are they posted online? Where? Did anyone decline to give you a requested endorsement? Why? Which WA State Court Judges have you endorsed?

Judicial Philosophy

6. What is the proper relationship between the **three branches of government** – judiciary, executive, and legislative?ⁱ
7. In a difficult case, how should a judge arrive at the **correct decision** or ruling? What role should any of the following play?
 - a) Prior judicial precedent
 - b) The judge's own beliefs about right and wrong
 - c) Whether the parties before the judge are represented by skilled attorneys or are appearing pro se
8. When it comes to a conflict between the **rights of the individual and a social policy** expressed in law, how should that conflict be resolved?ⁱⁱ
9. Our State **Supreme Court is geographically dominated** by west side justices. Do you favor electing justices by district rather than of our current statewide elections?ⁱⁱⁱ

Criminal Justice

10. Judges have discretion in imposing **sentences in criminal cases**. How would you determine the appropriate sentence for a convicted defendant?

11. In particular, do you believe that the adoption of **sentencing guidelines** has had a positive or negative effect on the criminal justice system?^{iv}
12. What, if anything, should be done to **shorten the delay** between an arrest and the ultimate disposition of a criminal defendant?
13. What is your belief about the place of **capital punishment** in our criminal justice system?^v
14. What is your belief about the place of **Community courts and pre-trial services**.^{vi}
15. Are there **systemic problems in our judicial system** such as high rates of minority incarceration? Should they be addressed in the courts or legislatively?^{vii}

ⁱ <http://www.heritage.org/courts>

ⁱⁱ <http://lonang.com/commentaries/conlaw/organizing/laws-of-nature-and-natures-god/>;
<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/high-courts-christian-legal-society-ruling-already-making-waves>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Legal_Society_v._Martinez (org)
<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/433051/little-sisters-poor-supreme-court> (ACA-contraception req)
<http://www.adfmedia.org/News/PRDetail/8608> (Arlene's Flowers)

ⁱⁱⁱ ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.washingtonpolicy.org/library/docLib/Mercier-elect_justices_by_district.pdf

^{iv} <http://www.bbc.com/news/21523413>

<http://www.publiceye.org/defendingjustice/pdfs/factsheets/9-Fact%20Sheet%20-%20US%20vs%20World.pdf>

^v <https://www.biblegateway.com/blog/2011/09/what-does-the-bible-say-about-capital-punishment/>

^{vi} <http://cforjustice.org/2012/09/13/announcing-smart-justice-for-spokane/>

<http://smartjusticespokane.org/>; http://www.spokanecounty.org/data/srcjc/Blueprint%20For%20Reform_Final.pdf

^{vii} <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2012/03/13/11351/the-top-10-most-startling-facts-about-people-of-color-and-criminal-justice-in-the-united-states/>; <http://www.nap.edu/read/18613/chapter/6#108>