

**LIBERTY CITY LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OUTFRONT! PAC**

2007 JUDICIAL PRIMARY ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: **Ellen Green-Ceisler** Signature _____ Date: **March 4, 2007**

Campaign address: **305 West Springfield Ave. Philadelphia, PA. 19118**

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Office you are seeking: **Judge - Court of Common Pleas**

- 1) Have you been recommended by the Philadelphia Bar Association? **YES**

- 2) For how many years have you practiced law? **21**

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

PHILADELPHIA CITY CONTROLLER'S OFFICE

Director – Special Investigations & Fraud Unit – January 2006 to September 2006

Supervised and participated in investigations into governmental waste, mismanagement, and fraud to insure proper expenditure of taxpayer dollars and effective delivery of city services.

PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Independent Consultant – July 2005 to January 2006

Hired by the School District's Chief Executive Officer to conduct an independent evaluation of the student disciplinary policies and procedures and to make recommendations to improve this system

**INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE of the PHILADELPHIA POLICE
DEPARTMENT -**

Director – April 2000 to March 2005

Deputy Director – January 1997 to April 2000

Responsibilities included auditing and monitoring the operations, policies, and practices of the Police Department, analyzing applicable principles of federal, state, and municipal law, and making recommendations to improve the Department's ability to minimize misconduct and corruption, improve the effectiveness of the Department's operations, and enhance public confidence in the Department. My studies and recommendations contributed to improvements in the quality of the Department's internal investigations into corruption, misconduct, and officer-involved shootings; the effectiveness and efficiency of the use of force reporting, tracking, and investigations; the disciplinary system; the enforcement of narcotics laws; and firearms training.

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Special Advisor to the Sheriff – October 1992 to November 1994

Assisted City Law Department with legal and labor matters pertaining to the office,

coordinated and supervised internal investigations, disciplinary proceedings, and intergovernmental relations.

ZARWIN & BAUM, P.C.

Associate – April 1990 to September 1992

General civil litigation with primary emphasis in the areas of insurance and criminal defense.

WCAU-TV NEWS (CBS)

Investigative Producer – May 1988 to April 1990

Developed, researched, and produced in-depth investigative series on issues related to breakdowns in the mental health, foster care, and day care systems; municipal mismanagement and waste; consumer fraud; and abuses of the elderly and immigrants.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Philadelphia, PA.

Assistant District Attorney – August 1986 to May 1988

Prosecuted felony and misdemeanor crimes in Philadelphia's Municipal, Common Pleas, and Family Courts. Specialized in the prosecution of crimes of domestic violence and provided assistance to the victims of these crimes.

- 4) Describe a few of the most significant cases you have litigated. Please give a summary of the substance of the cases, the citations if available, and why you believe they were significant.

As an assistant district attorney, I prosecuted misdemeanor and felony criminal cases in the Municipal, Common Pleas, and Family Courts of Philadelphia and researched and wrote memoranda of law and appellate briefs. I specialized in the prosecution of crimes of domestic violence and provided assistance to the victims of these crimes.

While an associate at Zarwin & Baum, my practice involved general civil litigation with primary emphasis in the areas of insurance and criminal defense and plaintiff's personal injury. I managed my own case load and had full responsibility for all phases of litigation process.

As a pro-bono attorney for the Support Center for Child advocates I was appointed by the court and served as guardian ad litem for several children in the dependency courts of Philadelphia's Family Courts.

As special advisor to the Sheriff, Director of the Integrity and Accountability Office, Director of the Special Investigations and Fraud Unit, and consultant to the Philadelphia School District, I regularly researched, analyzed, and applied applicable principles of federal, state, and municipal laws, including federal and state constitutional issues, labor law issues, and local and state regulations pertaining to a variety of issues.

- 5) Have you published any scholarly works? If so, please list them.

I have written extensive reports while Director of the Integrity and Accountability Office. Copies of those reports can be found on my website:

www.greenceisler07.com

A major report that I wrote for the Philadelphia School District regarding the student disciplinary system and school safety issues was recently released to the public. I would be happy to provide a copy of that report if necessary.

- 6) State briefly why you are seeking the Democratic nomination to be a judge in Philadelphia, and what qualities you believe you possess that would serve you especially well if you were elected to the Court.

Much of my professional career and civic involvement has been dedicated to improving the quality of life and the quality of justice for the citizens of Philadelphia. I want to be a judge because I believe that judges can have a positive impact on people's lives and the quality of life in our community.

If elected, I will be fully committed to treating ALL people with respect and dignity and insuring fair and equal treatment. Rather than accept the status quo, I will also work hard to find solutions to problems and inefficiencies in our court system to better serve the needs of the citizens, attorneys, law enforcement and city agencies, and the numerous other stakeholders who work within or come in contact with our judicial system.

My background is atypical from the other judicial candidates, however, my career path has, in many fundamental ways, prepared me for this position. For the reasons described below, my record clearly demonstrates that I have the skills, character, and temperament necessary to do this important and sensitive job.

I have been a lawyer in good standing for twenty-one years, and have had five solid years of litigation experience. I am familiar with and comfortable in the courtroom. While I have not recently engaged in litigation practice, my varied experiences illustrate the fact that I have the ability to quickly grasp and master new subjects. For this reason, I have no doubt that prior to assuming judicial duties; I would gain expertise in the policies and procedures necessary to effectively fulfill the duties of a Common Pleas Court Judge.

Understanding the technical rules of evidence and procedure are only part what makes a great judge. Other less tangible qualities such as the sincere desire to seek the truth, the make a positive difference, impartiality, common sense, the deep desire to seek the truth and make appropriate, reasonable rational decisions are equally, if not more important.

My entire career has essentially involved seeking the truth and applying that knowledge to effectuate positive change. As a prosecutor, litigator, legal advisor, investigative producer, independent police auditor, and Director of Special Investigations and Fraud for the City of Philadelphia's financial watchdog agency, I have established a reputation for thoroughness, fairness, and integrity and have engendered the trust, cooperation and respect of people with whom I have worked, even in adversarial circumstances.

In my various roles, I have been able to instigate positive changes despite dealing with issues that were challenging, controversial, and complex. I attribute my successes to the fact that I approach each subject and issue impartially and with an open mind. I do not make conclusions or recommendations until I have carefully and thoroughly considered all perspectives on an issue, obtained and reviewed the facts and evidence, and then applied the pertinent standards. I treat people fairly and

with respect and I am an active and engaged listener.

My record has clearly demonstrated my attention to details, my ability to absorb and synthesize large amounts of information, and my excellent research, analytical, and writing skills

I will apply the same work ethics and diligence to the bench that I have shown in my entire career.

- 7) Do you believe that bias affects our justice system in any way? If so, how do you propose to eliminate it?

I believe that biases, prejudices, and stereotypes exist throughout our society, including the judicial system. I have dedicated my pro-bono activities to addressing these issues and problems. Please refer to Question #6 for how I propose to address biases in our judicial system.

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

The lack of comprehensive, effective, widely available, and easily accessible resources and services which are needed to address the complex needs of many individuals who are part of the criminal and family courts, such as mental health and drug and alcohol treatment programs and services, job training, among others. Probation and Parole officers maintain enormous and unreasonable caseloads that prohibit meaningful oversight. Case backlogs result in tremendous inconveniences for victims of crimes and result in many cases being discharged.

- 9) For what organizations have you done pro-bono work?

Anti-Defamation League - Executive Board Member and former Chair of the Civil Rights and Education Committees of the Eastern Pennsylvania/Delaware region chapter of the ADL. The ADL is a national civil rights/human relations agency that combats all forms of racism, bigotry, and prejudice and works to insure fair and equal treatment for all people through educational, legislative, and advocacy initiatives.

The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania – I am a Hearing Committee Member in matters pertaining disciplinary actions against attorneys.

The Support Center for Child Advocates - Former Board member and pro-bono attorney for private non-profit agency that provides legal and social services to abused and neglected children in Philadelphia.

LEADERSHIP, INC. - Graduate of 2002 class. Participant in nine month program designed to enhance knowledge of critical civic issues, and to develop and enrich leadership skills.

- 10) List all organizations and associations of which you are or have been a member, including charitable, non-profit, civic, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations. How would

your work with these organizations influence the kind of judge you will be?

See Answer to Question #9. My record of public service, particularly as it relates to my long-standing and active involvement with the Anti-Defamation League, is clear indication that I am fully committed to treating ALL people with respect and dignity and insuring fair and equal treatment.

11) Do any of the above organizations, associations or clubs prohibit or limit its membership on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity?

NO

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

a. Marriage? **YES**

b. Civil Unions? **YES**

c. Domestic Partnership? **YES**

d. Second-parent adoption? **YES**

e. Protection from workplace discrimination? **YES**

f. Protection from housing discrimination? **YES**

g. Protection from acts of violence based on their sexual orientation or gender identity?
YES

13) What is your experience with the LGBT community both generally and/or professionally? As an attorney, have you ever represented LGBT clients?

Individuals who are part of the LGBT community have been integral and important parts of my entire life and they include my family members, friends, colleagues, and neighbors.

In my capacity as Co-Chair of the Civil Rights Committee of the Anti-Defamation League, we sponsored and approved a resolution approving same sex marriages.

14) Do you support a woman's right to choose? **YES**

15) Have you ever been the subject of any investigation for any alleged breach of ethics or professional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee, judicial conduct committee, or other professional group? If so, please explain and state the result of the investigation including any disciplinary action.

NO

16) Have you ever had a legal malpractice claim filed against you or have been sued based upon your legal services? If so, please explain and include the outcome.

NO

Please return by Friday March 16th via e-mail to matt@libertycity.org

Or via mail to:

Liberty City Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club

C/o Matthew Woodcock

2121 St. Albans Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102