

## Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

District Attorney Craig Stedman

Candidate Name (Print)

8/18/17

Date

*Craig Stedman*

Candidate Signature

Pennsylvania Superior Court

Position Sought

1. Please describe your background and experiences that qualify you for this office. (Feel free to attach a prepared resume or biography.)

See attachment 1.

2. What is your general judicial philosophy? Do you believe in the concept of the "living constitution" with respect to the Pennsylvania and United States Constitutions?

I am a strict constructionist. I believe that a judge's role is to interpret the law as written and to never legislate from the bench. I do not believe the Constitution is a living document. The Constitution says some things and they do not say others.

3. Please identify the current U.S. Supreme Court Justice that you believe most closely reflects your judicial philosophy and explain why.

Justice Samuel Alito is the current U.S. Supreme Court Justice I believe most closely reflects my judicial philosophy. I believe that Justice Alito makes decisions purely on the law as written and believes that the United States Constitution should be interpreted as written.

4. To what extent do you believe that a judge should or should not defer to the actions of the legislature?

There should be great deference to the legislature. The role of judge to interpret the law not make it. I firmly believe if you want to change the laws then you should run for the legislature not the bench.

5. What particular problems have you detected in Pennsylvania's civil justice system? Are there reforms that you would like to see enacted or adopted as a remedy?

I do not have much experience in the civil arena so I hesitate to offer up suggested reforms until I hear from the experts and practitioners. I will note that 71% of the docket for the PA Superior Court is criminal. I have plenty suggested reforms in that area.

6. Do you believe our judicial system adequately deters and penalizes frivolous litigation? If not, what reforms would you like to see?

Please see my previous response. I would add that I have been subject to numerous frivolous lawsuits from people I have prosecuted. My office, and the county, has had to spend considerable resources fighting what were clearly vindictive and retaliatory lawsuits from criminal defendants so I certainly can identify with concern in this area.



PA COALITION FOR  
CIVIL JUSTICE  
REFORM

7. Do you think excessive damage awards are a problem in our courtrooms?

Again, the focus of my career has been criminal prosecution. I do not believe I am expert enough to respond to this question. I believe in following the law and fairness to everyone involved and I am committed to doing the right thing for the right reason.

8. Do you support the equal representation of plaintiff and defense counsel involved in civil litigation on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Procedural Rules and Evidentiary Rules Committees?

Yes. I have been part of numerous committees and it has often seemed like the criminal defense bar has been overly represented compared to the prosecution. Fairness of representation is important to achieving the best and balanced outcome.

9. Do you support extending the venue rule for medical liability cases in Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 1006(a.1) to cover all personal injury cases and defendants?

Again, the focus of my career has been criminal prosecution. I do not believe I am expert enough to respond to this question.

10. Please identify any endorsements your campaign has received.

Republican Party of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia Firefighters and Paramedics Union - Local 22
Pennsylvania State Troopers Association	Recommended by Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police
Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association	Highly Recommended by the PA Bar Association
PSEA	Recommended by the PA Pro-Life Federation

11. Please identify all membership organizations including bar associations, professional associations, professional societies, civic, community, charitable, religious, educational, social, political and labor organizations to which you are or have been affiliated or have provided pro bono work.

See attached resume.

12. Have you ever been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of any federal, state, county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance (excluding minor traffic offenses but including DUI or reckless driving)? Been the subject of a formal disciplinary proceeding as an attorney? If so, please give the particulars and the result.

No.



## **Attachment 1**

**Public servants have a duty to act with as much efficiency and effectiveness as possible. We all must remember that the funds we spend in government are not ours, we should only spend what we must, and we must justify each expense.**

**Because I am not yet a judge, I hesitate to say exactly what should be done to save on judicial administration. I will want to be in the position and understand exactly how things work before making any specific proposals on increasing efficiency. Having said that, there is no question that the sooner we can shift everything connected to the judiciary to electronic form the better.**

**Moreover, I have a demonstrably strong record for increasing efficiency in my office as well as the courts which have led to significant taxpayer savings. I presented the court with plans to create both a Central DUI Court and a Domestic Violence Court which have been adopted and resulted in significantly expedited dispositions. I have also worked with our court to come up with a plan to reduce delays in our pending case list with demonstrable results. Working together, we have reduced the number of cases over one year in age from 28% a few years ago to 6%. This dramatic change has saved the county millions of dollars in prison costs and related expenses which stem from delayed justice.**

**I also continually meet with my staff at all levels to assess how we can do better. At my direction, we have consolidated contracts, such as Westlaw, with other county offices to get a better price. We have streamlined our own procedures whenever possible to save resources. In fact, one of the first things I did when I became District Attorney was to create an electronic discovery process for our police reports which not only saves money but increases efficiencies. I am also proud to say that even though our duties have significantly increased over my ten years in office, I have not requested even one additional full time prosecutor. I absolutely take this issue very seriously and my military training has reinforced my commitment to look for solutions rather than blame.**

# CRAIG W. STEDMAN

## PROVEN PROSECUTOR

Leader in the field of criminal justice with over 25 years of experience in federal, state, and county courts fighting for public safety. Protects communities with forward-thinking policies that prioritize the worst offenders as well as implementing strategic and innovative reforms to increase efficiencies and taxpayer savings, foster public and private collaborations, conduct programs focused on crime prevention and education, as well as offer diversionary programs for those who deserve a second chance. Committed to interpreting the rule of law with equality and fairness and its administration with integrity, honor, and common sense.

## EXPERIENCE

### District Attorney, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 2008 to present

- Prioritized repeat, violent, and sexual offenders, as well as stranger house burglars, for appropriate sentences to protect our communities and families
- Established model Special Victims Unit against child predators and achieved statewide recognition for collaborative practices and protocols
- Created first-ever Lancaster County Elder Abuse Prosecution Unit and Task Force and partnered with the Office of Aging to assist and protect our seniors
- Increased office commitment to community education, prevention and deterrence programs and hired first-ever Lancaster County Community Outreach Coordinator
- Worked with court on reforms to dramatically increase court efficiency, significantly reduce prison population, and save the taxpayer millions, without harming public safety
- Designed and proposed DUI Central Court with common sense changes which have increased efficiency, reduced costs, and been universally praised by police, courts, and defense bar
- Established DUI Repeat Offender Program, which protects the community, targets the highest risk offenders, and allows others to be placed on an alcohol monitoring bracelet
- Strengthened Domestic Violence Unit and instituted Lethality Assessment Program to identify the highest risk cases to coordinate the proper response and/or services
- Built strong Computer Forensic Unit to target online predators and analyze data
- Created first ever Lancaster County Major Crash Investigative Unit
- Created first ever Lancaster County Major Crimes Unit Forensic Team
- Increased opportunities for diversionary programs for non-violent first time offenders
- Created ARD Panels which give defendants, with counsel, the option to meet with prosecutors in a non-adversarial forum designed to craft the best outcome for all
- Increased office efficiency and streamlined procedures to cut waste
- Created position for first ever Public Safety Grant Coordinator resulting in substantial savings
- Created policy to ensure police input on pleas and entry into diversionary programs
- Integrated victim advocates with prosecutors to increase victim input and services

### Assistant District Attorney, Lancaster County District Attorney's Office, Lancaster, PA, 1991-2008

#### *Chief, Lancaster County Major Crimes Unit, 2000-08*

- Responsible for all homicide and suspicious death investigations
- Supervised and coordinated strategy, search warrants and charges with police

#### *Special Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office, 2002-06*

- First in the office to be cross-designated to prosecute gun crimes in federal court
- Established and supervised the Lancaster County Firearms Task Force

*Trial and Appellate Assistant District Attorney, 1991-2007*

- Successfully prosecuted all types of cases to include the most serious and complicated cases in the county and obtained verdict sought in all homicide trials
- Researched and drafted briefs for cases on appeal with appellate courts
- Presented oral argument before the Superior and Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania

**EDUCATION**

Law School	<p><i>Penn State Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, Pennsylvania</i> Juris Doctor, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>, 1991 Class Rank: 3/173 The President's Award Dickinson Law Review Appellate Moot Court Board Woolsack Society Dauphin County District Attorney's Office, Harrisburg, PA Office of the Secretary of Defense Honors Legal Internship, Washington, DC Todd, Gemmel, Nugent and Fitzgerald, Linwood, NJ</p>
Undergraduate	<p><i>University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware</i> B.A., Honors Degree in History, <i>Magna Cum Laude and with Distinction</i>, 1986 GPA: 3.82 <i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> Honor Society <i>Phi Alpha Phi</i> Honor Society <i>Louis E. Larsen Award</i> for top graduate in history, 1986 <i>Phi Alpha Theta</i>, Honor Society in History <i>National Slavic</i> Honor Society</p>
Military	<p><i>United States Army Intelligence Center and School</i> Officer Basic Course, Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, 1987 Graduated first in class in academics ROTC Scholarship, University of Delaware, 1983-86 <i>General J. Ernest Smith Prize</i> for highest grades in military science, 1986 <i>Distinguished Military Student Award</i> <i>Scabbard and Blade Honor Society</i> <i>Retired Officer Association ROTC Medal</i></p>

**COURT ADMISSIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

*Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 1991*  
*United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 2002*  
*Pennsylvania Bar Association, 1991*  
*Lancaster Bar Association, 1991*  
*Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association, 1991*  
*National District Attorney's Association, 1991*

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

*Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association, Executive Committee, 2016 to present*  
*Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association Best Practices Committee, 2014 to present*  
*Pennsylvania District Attorney's Institute, Board of Directors, 2014-16, Instructor*  
*Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing Strategic Planning Work Group, 2014-16*  
*Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Instructor, 2015*  
*Lancaster County Prison Board, 2008 to present*  
*Lancaster County Special Emergency Response Team Advisory Board, 2008 to present*  
*Lancaster County Chiefs of Police Association, 2008 to present*  
*Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center, 2008 to present*  
*Lancaster County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, 2008 to present*  
*Lancaster County Victim/Witness Policy Board, Chairman, 2008-15*  
*Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing State Parole Guidelines Work Group, 2013-14*  
*Lancaster Bar Association. Vice President, 2006, Secretary, 2005*

Instructor: People's Law School, Criminal Law, 1999 and 2003; multiple CLE classes 2008-16  
*Lancaster Community Safety Coalition*, Lancaster County Representative, 2006. Board, 2003 to present  
*Lancaster Alliance*, Anti-Crime Initiative Advisor, 2005-13  
*Lancaster City Quality of Life Task Force*, Sub-Committee Chairman, 2001-03  
*Lancaster Crime Commission*, Advisor representing District Attorney's Office, 2000-03  
*Lancaster County Criminal Court Task Force*, 2000-03, 2010 to present  
*Pennsylvania State University Paralegal Program*, Instructor- Criminal Law, 1996  
*American Inns of Court*, W. Hensel Brown Chapter, 1993-97

#### **MILITARY SERVICE**

*Tactical Intelligence Officer*, Captain, United States Army Reserves, 1986-96  
*Army Achievement Medal*, 1988  
*Top Secret- SCI Clearance*, 1986  
*Military Officers Association of America*, Lancaster, PA Chapter, 2006 to present

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

*National Multiple Sclerosis Society Leadership Award*, 2009  
*Fight Crime Invest in Kids*, 2011 to present  
*Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet*, 2008 to present  
*Historic Rock Ford Plantation*, Board of Directors, 2006 to present  
*Lancaster Multiple Sclerosis Leadership Class of 2005*, Advisory Council, 2006  
*Lancaster County Community Foundation Grant Review Team*, 2004-07  
*Spalding Program in Leadership*, Franklin and Marshall College, Mentor, 2004-05, 2007  
*Leadership Lancaster*, Instructor/Coordinator, Law and Justice Day, 2004 to present. Graduate, Class of 2004  
*Manheim Township High School Mock Trial Team*, Attorney Advisor, 1999-2006  
*Lancaster County Law Explorers*, Boys Scouts of America, Advisor, 1992-95  
*Volunteer Admissions Support Team*, University of Delaware, 1988-2006  
*Guest Lecturer*: PSU- Dickinson School of Law; Franklin and Marshall College, Millersville University,  
Cheney University; numerous churches, high schools, and retirement communities Lancaster  
County; Lancaster General Hospital

#### **POLITICAL SERVICE**

*Republican Party of Pennsylvania State Committee*, 2014-16  
*Republican Party of Pennsylvania State Committee*, Resolutions Committee, 2014-16  
*Lancaster County ACTION*, 2012-16  
*Republican Committee of Lancaster County*, Lincoln Club Member, 2006-16  
*Manheim Township Republican Committee*, Committeeman, 21<sup>st</sup> District, 2005-16, Treasurer (2006-07)  
*Committee to Elect Scott Martin (PA Senate)*, Chairman, 2015-16  
*Chairman of Breakfast Committee*, Manheim Township Republican Committee, April 2006

#### **AWARDS**

*Lifetime Award*, In the Light Ministries, 2016  
*Team DUI Award*, PA DUI Association, 2016  
*Large County Award- Prison Overcrowding Task Force* Lancaster County, CCAP, 2015  
*Video Evidence Litigator of the Year Award*, Lancaster Community Safety Coalition, 2015  
*Criminal Justice System Best Practices Award-Juvenile Justice* Lancaster County, CCAP, 2014  
*Award of Excellence*, PA Tactical Officer Association, 2012  
*Northeast Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators*, 2012  
*Restorative Justice Award*, Lancaster Area Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, 2011

#### **PERSONAL**

Fifty two (52) years of age  
Born in Lawrence County, PA  
Raised in Bucks County, PA  
Married; father of son and daughter