

Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Judge Emil Giordano

Candidate Name (Print)

8/18/17

Date

Emil Giordano

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 attached resume.

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.

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 judicial philosophy I most closely identify with. Justice Alito is a strict constructionist and interprets the law as written.

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

As a judge on the Superior Court, my role is to interpret the laws as written and passed by the legislative branch and signed into law by the executive branch. I believe words matter and that my job is to interpret them as written.

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?

Due to some high profile instances that have transpired over the past several years involving the judiciary, our courts are suffering from a lack of public confidence. That will only be corrected by electing judges who are ethical and fair-minded. I believe the courts should consider mandatory ethics training annually for all members of the judiciary.

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

As a sitting judge, I believe my record demonstrates that I have consistently treated all parties in my courtroom fairly. I strongly believe in the separation of powers and that the legislature is best suited to make those decisions and it is my role to interpret and apply them.



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

I believe this is an issue that is best suited for the legislature to address. Again, I believe I have a record on the bench of being a fair and impartial jurist to all parties.

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?

I support equal representation.

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?

I believe this is an issue that is best suited for the legislature to address. Again, I believe I have a record on the bench of being a fair and impartial jurist to all parties.

10. Please identify any endorsements your campaign has received.

See attachment A.

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 A

Endorsements:

- Republican Party of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania State Troopers Association
- PSEA
- Pennsylvania State Building & Construction Trades Council
- Laborers' District Council of Western Pennsylvania
- Lehigh valley Building and Construction Trades Council
- Pennsylvania State Troopers Association
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Star Lodge #20 Bethlehem, PA
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Berks Lodge #71
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Queen City #10 Allentown, PA
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Bucks County Lodge #53
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Fort Pitt Lodge #1
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP Easton, PA
- Philadelphia Fire Fighters and Paramedics Union – Local 22
- Bethlehem Fire Fighters Local 735
- Allentown Fire Fighters Local
- Steamfitters Local Union 448
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Council #57 of Western Pennsylvania

Recommendations:

- Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police
- "Highly Recommended" by the Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Firearms Owners Against Crime
- Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police
- PA Pro-Life Federation

Honorable Emil Giordano

669 Washington Street • Easton • PA • 18042 • (610) 360-7048 • egiord7630@rcn.com

A knowledgeable and experienced Judge with a track record of fairness in conducting arraignments, pretrial conferences, settlement conferences, jury, non-jury, civil and criminal trials; presiding over cases concerning every aspect of society, ensuring that trials and hearings are conducted impartially and efficiently, and that justice is administered, while safeguarding the legal rights of all involved parties.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County**, Easton, PA 2004 – Present
Judge, Third Judicial District
- Presides over jury and non-jury, criminal, civil, and family court matters.
 - Conducted numerous and complex civil and criminal matters including death penalty cases.
 - Has presided over 67 jury trials to date.
- Domestic Relations Section of Northampton County Court**, Easton, PA 2007 – 2010
Administrative Judge, Third Judicial District
- Within first year, successfully led the Section to meet all four state-mandated performance measures for the first time in its history.
 - Through tenure, the Section continued to achieve its goals and receive state incentive payments.
- Giordano Law Offices**, Private Law Practice, Bethlehem, PA 1988 – 2003
Founding Attorney and Lead Counsel
- Litigated major civil, construction and commercial cases in Federal and state courts.
 - Tried over 20 jury trials.
 - Co-counsel for municipal defendants in CERCLA litigation in Federal courts.
 - Represented plaintiffs and defendants in Federal Civil Rights actions.
 - Represented creditors in Federal Bankruptcy Court.
 - Represented claimants in Social Security and Workman's Compensation cases.
 - Represented municipalities and contractors in competitive bidding and complex construction litigation.
 - Represented municipalities and churches in RLUIPA cases.
 - Oversaw two attorneys and five support staff.
 - Served as Solicitor to the following municipalities:
 - Hanover Township, Northampton County, *Special Solicitor*, 2001 – 2003
 - Borough of Chapman, 1999 – 2003
 - Borough of North Catasauqua, 1995 – 2003
 - Borough of Northampton, 1994 – 2003
 - Moore Township, 1992 – 1993
 - Upper Mount Bethel Township Policeman's Association, 1990 – 1995
 - Assistant Public Defender, Northampton County Public Defender's Office, Easton, PA, 1994 – 1996
 - Assistant Public Defender, Lehigh County Public Defender's Office, Allentown, PA, 1990
 - Solicitor, Tri-Boro Sportsmen Club, 1992 – 2003
- Holland, Taylor And Sorrentino, P.C.**, Bethlehem, PA 1987 – 1988
Associate
- Civil litigator, managed all aspects of insurance defense from discovery through trial.
- Broome County District Attorney's Office**, Binghamton, NY 1985 – 1987
Assistant District Attorney
- Prosecuted summary, misdemeanor and felony cases.
 - Handled grand jury presentments.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA

2005 – Present

Adjunct Professor

- Teaching the following Undergraduate classes:
 - Corrections in America
 - Criminal Law and Society
 - Crimes and Courts
 - Criminal Law and Process
 - Criminal Law and Evidence
 - Family Law

DeSales University, Center Valley, PA

2005 – Present

Adjunct Professor

- Teaching the following Graduate *Masters of Criminal Justice* class:
 - Advanced Issues in the U.S. Constitution and Criminal Law
- Teaching the following Undergraduate classes:
 - Issues in Criminal Law
 - Criminal Procedure
 - Senior Seminar

EDUCATION

Villanova School Of Law, Villanova, PA

Graduated 1985

Juris Doctorate

- President of Student Bar Association, 1985

Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA

Graduated 1982

Bachelor of Arts Degree – Political Science

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- Admitted to Bar: New York, 1985; Pennsylvania, 1986
- Admitted to Practice, United States District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1987

AWARDS

- Lehigh Valley Crime Victims Council Award for Outstanding Commitment to Victim's Rights (first judicial recipient to receive this award), 2005
- Bethlehem Catholic High School Distinguished Graduate Award, 2005
- Sons of Italy Annual Achievement Award, 2004
- *Victims of Irreparable Crime Experience* Endorsed Candidate, Office of District Attorney of Northampton County, 1991

AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association, 1990 – present
- Pennsylvania State Trial Judges, 2003 – present
- Pennsylvania Bar Association, 1987 – present
- Northampton County Bar Association, 1987 – present

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Northampton County Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Committee, *Chairman*, 2003
- Northampton County Bar Association Municipal Law Committee, *Chairman and Lecturer*, 2001 – 2002
- Citizen's Police Academy, D.A.R.E., and Minsi Trails Council, BSA, *Lecturer*, 1990 – 2003
- Lehigh Little League, Board of Directors and Coach, 2000 – 2010
- Notre Dame CYO, *Member of Board of Directors*, 2012 – Present; *Coach*, 2001 – 2011
- Hellertown Lions Club, *Member*, 2003 – Present
- UNICO, *Member*, 1996 – 2004, 2012 – Present
- Saint Thomas More Society, *Member of Board of Governors*, 2012 – Present
- Bethlehem Catholic High School, *Member of Endowment Board*, 2011 – Present