

**Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**

**Sallie Mundy**  
Candidate Name

**8/18/17**  
Date

  
Candidate Signature

**Justice of the Supreme Court**  
Position Sought

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

Resume attached.

- 2) What is your judicial philosophy? Do you believe in the concept of the “living constitution” with respect to the Pennsylvania and United States Constitutions?**

I believe in strict construction of the Constitution. I believe that we have to have jurists who understand the role of the judiciary in our system – and one that respects that the legislature makes laws not the judiciary. There should be no give on that philosophy. The court is an arbitrator of facts and must apply the laws the legislature passes as long as they are consistent with the Constitution. I see myself as someone that is there to call balls and strikes, not insert an activist bend to my decisions.

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

Although he is recently deceased, I have always appreciated the Conservative philosophy of Antonin Scalia. I also appreciated the fact that he was never shy to voice his opinion.

However, my judicial role model has always been the Honorable Robert M. Kemp, President Judge of Tioga County. Becoming a jurist has been my inspirational goal since the days of my judicial clerkship for him. To Judge Kemp, justice was a most precious commodity to be dispensed with the utmost care ensuring fairness to all at every turn.

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

I strongly believe in the 3 branches of government and separation of powers. It is the duty of the Judiciary to uphold the law – not create it. As laws are created by the Legislature, it is the

Judiciary's responsibility to uphold those laws, and assure they are applied consistently and fairly across the commonwealth.

**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?**

The participation of pro se litigants in our civil justice system is concerning. Our poorest citizens who are unable to afford legal representation deserve the same access to justice as those who can afford legal counsel. As such I am interested in developing ideas to encourage the increased participation of the members of the Bar in providing pro bono services including representation in the civil justice arena.

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

It is not within my purview to suggest, enact or create laws. I will note that currently there are legislative enactments such as the certificate of merit in the medical malpractice arena, the Rules of Professional Conduct as well as common law remedies such as the Dragnetti Act that provide protections from frivolous litigation. As the legislature passes laws consistent with the Constitution, I will apply those laws to the cases in front of me.

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

It is the law of this Commonwealth, consistent with the Constitution, that the amount of a verdict is within the dominion of the jury. As such absent evidence of fraud or capriciousness, a verdict can only be overturned when it truly "shocks the consciousness" of the court.

**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?**

Absolutely. Additionally, I support a fair representation of participants on all committees of the Court to be comprised between the different practice perspectives as well as with an eye to inclusion of a more equal geographic representation as opposed to the disproportionate population of members from urban cities.

**8) 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?**

All rules of law must be applied equally and fairly. There should be one venue rule that applies to all.

**9) Please identify any endorsements your campaign has received.**

Highly Recommended by the PA Bar Association  
Republican Party of Pennsylvania  
PA State Troopers Association  
PA Corrections Officers Association  
PA Building and Trades Council  
Firearm Owners Against Crime (FOAC)  
PA Pro Life PAC  
Pa Secondary Teachers Assn (PSEA)  
FOP Local Lodge 1 – Pittsburgh  
FOP Local Lodge 16 – Lancaster  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
- Local 302 – Allentown  
- Local 1 – Pittsburgh  
PA Professional Fire Fighters Association

**10) 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.**

I am a charter and lifetime member of the Albert and Bertha Krieger Foundation which is a charitable organization that funds local community and school projects. I am a social member of the American Legion Post 235. I am a member of the Nessmuk Rod & Gun Club. When I owned the cattle farm, I was a member of the American Highland Cattle Association.

**11) 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.



## **Supreme Court Justice Sallie Mundy**

### **Term**

July 2016 to December 2017

### **Education**

University of Pittsburgh School of Law (J.D.), 1987

Washington and Jefferson College (B.A.), 1984

### **Professional Experience**

Judge, The Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 2010-2016

Volunteer Public Defender, Tioga County, 2008-09

Member Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Board, 1997-2003

Member Disciplinary Hearing Committee 3.02 1995-2001, past chair.

Lawyer, McEldrew & Fullam, Philadelphia, 1998-2009

Lawyer, Swartz Campbell & Detweiler, Philadelphia, 1996-98

Lawyer, Law Office of Stephen Ryan, Bala Cynwyd, 1995-96

Lawyer, McQuaide, Blasko, State College, 1988-1995

Judicial law clerk, Honorable Robert M. Kemp, President Judge, Tioga County, 1987-1988

### **Memberships and Associations**

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and Tioga Bar Associations

Pennsylvania Bar Association Insurance Trust, trustee, 1997-2008

Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates, member, 1996-2008

Pennsylvania Bar Young Lawyer's Division Zone 11, chair, 1993-95, at-large chair, 1995-96

Pennsylvania Bar Foundation Commonwealth Club

Pennsylvania Defense Institute

Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Trial Lawyer Associations

### **Awards and Honors**

The Legal Intelligencer's, Top Women in Law, 2016

W. Edward Sell '45 Legal Achievement Award, Washington & Jefferson College, 2016

Paid for by Friends for Sallie Mundy  
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[www.KeepJusticeMundy.com](http://www.KeepJusticeMundy.com)