

PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LAWYER CANDIDATES

FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE IN LUZERNE COUNTY

All candidates for judicial office in Luzerne County are being asked to complete this questionnaire. The information that you provide will be used by the Pennsylvania Bar Association to enable it to inform the public of your qualifications for judicial office. The PBA will make this questionnaire public by posting it on this Web site: www.pavotesmart.com.

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

a. Full Name: William Henry Amesbury

b. Have you ever been know by any other name? yes no

If so, please state other name: _____

c. Firm Name: William H. Amesbury & Associates LLC

d. Firm Address: 253 South Franklin Street

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

e. Date of Birth: 11/07/47

f. Law school where you obtained your law degree (Juris Doctor or equivalent):

Thomas M. Cooley Law School

g. Date you obtained your law degree: September 19, 1987

h. Are you a citizen of the United States? yes no

i. Have you ever had any military service? yes no

If so, have you ever been rejected or released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable? yes no

If so, give all details. _____

2. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND:**

a. Are you now or have you ever been an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? yes no

i. If so, give details, including the name of the enterprise, nature of the business, the title of your position, the nature of your duties and the term of your services:

Board of Directors of Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley

b. Have you ever held any level of judicial office? yes no

If so, give dates and details, whether elected or appointed and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court:

Magisterial District Judge - elected in November, 2001 and re-elected in
November, 2007. Jurisdiction includes all areas designated in
42 Pa. C.S.A. section 1515 (a)

c. Have you ever held public office other than a judicial office? yes no

If so, give details: _____

5. TRAINING AND BACKGROUND:

a. Describe in the space below any judicial-related training that you have received, including internships, clerkships, arbitrations, mediations, CLE course study, etc.

Participated primarily as defense arbitrator; have served as a mediator;
_____ have current license.

b. State whether you are a special trial master in the Common Pleas Court of Luzerne County or a certified mediator for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania:

Special Trial Master	_____ yes	<u> X </u> no
Certified Mediator	_____ yes	<u> X </u> no

c. Do you currently devote full time to the practice of law?
_____ yes X no

If not, how much time do you devote to the practice? 20 (hours per week)

c. What is the general nature of your practice and if it has changed during the years?

Estate planning, Wills, Trusts, Elder Law, Insurance Defense, Plaintiff Litigation and
Workers Compensation.

Case load has been reduced due to Magisterial Court duties.

e. Describe your practice with particular areas of concentration, if any. _____

Elder Law - Medicare and Medical Assistance

f. With respect to the last five years:

i. Did you appear in court regularly, occasionally or not at all?

Occasionally

ii. The percentage of these appearances was the following:

Federal Court	0
State Courts of Record	25
Other courts/administrative agencies or other forums	75

iii. The percentage of your litigations was the following:

Civil	100
Criminal	0

6. **LITIGATION:**

Whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel or associate counsel within the last five years, state the following:

a. The number of civil jury trials you have tried to verdict.	0
b. The number of civil bench trials you have tried to verdict.	0
c. The number of mandatory arbitrations you have tried to verdict.	0
d. The number of underinsured motorist cases you have tried in arbitration.	0
e. The number of civil cases that you settled.	17
f. The number of criminal jury trials you have tried to verdict.	0
g. The number of criminal bench trials you have tried to verdict.	0
h. The approximate number of hearings in which you have participated, either criminal or civil, before a district justice.	0
i. The number of administrative hearings that you have presented before any administrative judge or board.	0
j. The number of cases you have presented to a U. S. Bankruptcy Judge.	0
k. The number of cases you have presented to award before a Workers' Compensation Judge.	10
l. The number of Orphan's Court proceedings resulting in litigation.	35
m. The number of juvenile proceedings in which you have participated.	100+

as District Judge

7. **CORPORATE BACKGROUND:**

a. Do you have any business background or corporate experience?

yes no

b. If so, please explain. Operate my own law firm

c. Does your practice include business or corporate litigation?

yes no

8. **LICENSE:**

a. Has your license to practice law ever been suspended or revoked?

yes no

If so, please explain, including the date that your license was reinstated.

b. Has any other professional entity or body with licensing authority denied, suspended, or revoked your registration or license (i.e. real estate, insurance, investment, etc.)?

yes no

If so, please explain in detail. _____

- c. Have you ever been a party or otherwise involved in civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give the particulars. **Do not** list any proceeding in which you were merely a guardian ad litem or shareholder. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a conspirator, co-respondent/defendant, and/or in which you figured as a subject or appeared as a witness in any grand jury investigation.

9. **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND:**

- a. Have you ever been arrested for a felony or misdemeanor (excluding motor vehicle violations)?
- _____ yes X no

If so, please explain in detail including the outcome of such proceeding.

- b. Are you now the subject of any complaint, investigation or proceeding that may have criminal ramifications or adversely affect your professional license?

_____ yes X no

If so, please explain in detail.

- c. Have you ever been the subject of any complaint or proceeding that alleged sexual harassment or any form of discrimination?

_____ yes X no

If so, please explain in detail. _____

- d. Have you ever been charged with DUI? _____ yes X no

If so, when did this happen and what was the outcome in detail?

10. PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATIONS:

- a. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are or have been a member. Provide the titles and dates of any office(s) that you have held in such groups and list chairmanships of any committee or memberships on any committee that you believe to be of particular significance.

Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania, Co-chair Non Crimes Code and
Truancy Committees (2005 - Present); Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association (1988 - Present);
American Bar Association (1987 - 2008); Pennsylvania Bar Association (1987 - Present)

- b. I have lectured or taught for the following law schools or bar/professional organizations:

Thomas M.Cooley Law School - "Legal Methods";
Pennsylvania State University at Wilkes-Barre, -"Federal & Pennsylvania Civil Procedure"

c. I have lectured on or taught about the following subjects:

National Business Institute - Elder Law and Probate Issues

d. I have written for the following publications and the topics were as follows:

"The Comprehensive Mental Health System - Is It Achievable?";

Perspectives of Psychiatric Care - September, 1982

e. List any honors, prizes, awards or other forms of recognition that you have received other than those mentioned above.

Charles "Chappy" Zimmerman Award for involvement with the youth of

Wilkes-Barre; South Wilkes-Barre Teener League Wall of Fame;

Swarthmore's *Who's Who*, 13th Edition, for distinguished achievement in the
legal field.

11. PERSONAL POSITION

Please fully describe below or on a separate sheet the reasons why you consider yourself qualified to be a judge and how you would improve our current system of practice.

For eight (8) years I presided over District Court Hearings and demonstrated temperament, civility and judicial judgment. A diverse background allows me to fashion remedies which

are appropriate forms of intervention and serves to appropriately punish wrongdoers.

I have rendered 36,000+ decisions including 14 Preliminary Hearings on criminal

~~homicide. I instituted a truancy program for children in my Court. I have seen the problems on our streets and made the necessary decisions to protect our community.~~

~~For fourteen (14) years, I handled automobile, slip-and-fall, medical malpractice and workers' compensaton cases. I have tried cases in each of the aforementioned areas and have handled appellate work in the Superior and Commonwealth Courts.~~

~~ADDENDUM: As I have been a Magisterial District Judge since election in 2001, my trial practice is obviously minimal. However, prior to becoming a Magisterial District Judge, I litigated automobile, slip-and-fall, medical malpractice and workers' compensation cases. I also handled appellate cases before the Superior and Commonwealth Courts, (emphasis supplied).~~

THE APPLICANT MUST SIGN THE FOLLOWING AFFIRMATION

I swear or affirm that I have read and understand the preceding questions and that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I assume the responsibility of promptly informing the Pennsylvania Bar Association of any changes to the answers provided for the questions contained on this form.

SIGNATURE: William H. Amesbury

PRINT NAME: William H. Amesbury

DATE: April 24, 2009