

**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: **Gene Sperazza**
- b. Have you ever been know by any other name?  yes  no

If so, please state other name: **Eugene Dominick Sperazza**

- c. Firm Name: **Law Offices of Eugene D. Sperazza**
- d. Firm Address: **525 Wyoming Ave.  
Kingston, PA 18704**
- e. Date of Birth: **June 24, 1954**
- f. Law school where you obtained your law degree (Juris Doctor or equivalent):

**Temple University School of Law**

- g. Date you obtained your law degree: **May 1983**
- 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:

**Since August 1999, I have been the owner/principal of the Law offices of Eugene D. Sperazza, with the ultimate responsibility for all administrative, management and financial aspects of the business.**

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:

---

---

---

---

---

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

If so, give details: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**3. PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:**

a.	<u>Firm Name</u>	<u>Start Date/End Date (mo/yr)</u>
i.	Founder, Law Offices of Eugene D. Sperazza	1999-Present
ii.	Principal, Hourigan, Kluger & Quinn, PC	1989-1999
iii.	Associate, Hourigan, Kluger & Quinn, PC	1984-1989
iv.	Law Clerk, President Judge Patrick J. Toole, Jr. Luzerne County Court	1983-1984
v.	Lecturer, Pennsylvania Bar Institute & Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Assoc.	
vi.	Luzerne/Wyoming County Mental Health Center	1977-1979

b. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and dates of admission.

1. All Pennsylvania Common Pleas and State Appellate Courts 1983
2. US District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania @1984
3. US Third Circuit Court of Appeals @1990

**4. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

a. List each college, university and law school you attended, including dates of attendance and degrees awarded:

<u>School Name</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Graduation/End Date</u>	<u>Degree/Certificate Awarded</u>
University of Scranton	1972	1976	B.A. Sociology, Cum Laude Honors
Marywood University	1975	1979	M.A. Counseling
Temple University School of Law	1980	1983	J.D., Cum Laude Honors

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.

**Law Clerk, President Judge Patrick J. Toole, Jr., Luzerne County Court; served as Family Court Divorce Master, served as Arbitrator for Compulsory and Non-Compulsory Arbitrations; served as Mediator; attended CLE courses in Evidence, Civil Procedure, Trial Advocacy and Ethics.**

- 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                      X   no

Certified Mediator                    \_\_\_\_\_ yes                      X   no

- c. Do you currently devote full time to the practice of law?

  X   yes                    \_\_\_\_\_ no

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

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

**The nature of my practice centers on Civil Litigation involving personal injury. Since 1984, I have represented victims in serious personal injury, motor vehicle collision, medical malpractice, slip and fall, defective product and medical device cases. During the first 20 years of my practice, I also represented individuals, businesses and medical providers as defendants in civil litigation cases.**

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

**See response to c (sic) above.**

- f. With respect to the last five years:  
 i. Did you appear in court regularly, occasionally or not at all?

**Regularly.**

- ii. The percentage of these appearances was the following:  
 Federal Court                   **5%**  
 State Courts of Record       **95%**  
 Other courts/administrative agencies or other forums
- iii. The percentage of your litigations was the following:  
 Civil                               **100%**  
 Criminal                           **0%**

**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.  | <b>4</b>   |
| b. | The number of civil bench trials you have tried to verdict.   | <b>0</b>   |
| c. | The number of mandatory arbitrations you have tried to verdict.   | <b>0</b>   |
| d. | The number of underinsured motorist cases you have tried in arbitration.  | <b>4</b>   |
| e. | The number of civil cases that you settled. <b>Approximately</b>  | <b>141</b> |
| f. | The number of criminal jury trials you have tried to verdict.   | <b>0</b>   |
| g. | The number of criminal bench trials you have tried to verdict.  | <b>0</b>   |
| h. | The approximate number of hearings in which you have participated, either criminal or civil, before a district justice. | <b>0</b>   |
| i. | The number of administrative hearings that you have presented before any administrative judge or board.                 | <b>0</b>   |
| j. | The number of cases you have presented to a U. S. Bankruptcy Judge.   | <b>0</b>   |
| k. | The number of cases you have presented to award before a Workers' Compensation Judge.                                   | <b>0</b>   |

- l. The number of Orphan's Court proceedings resulting in litigation. 0
- m. The number of juvenile proceedings in which you have participated. 0

7. **CORPORATE BACKGROUND:**

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

yes  no

- b. If so, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

- 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.

1. **2000. Writ of Summons filed in Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne Co. against my wife and me , arising out of an automobile accident involving my wife. The Writ was filed solely to toll the statute of limitations while the insurance company representing my wife officially completed the settlement.**

2. **2005. Petition to appoint a neutral arbitrator-Court of Common Pleas, Luzerne Co. on behalf of Dal S. and Eugene D. Sperazza, as her husband in an underinsurance motorist claim with State Farm Ins. arising out of a motor vehicle collision involving my wife in July, 2004. The matter was amicably resolved between the parties out of court and without the necessity of an arbitration hearing. I was involved as a named insured on the insurance policy.**

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. \_\_\_\_\_

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.

1. **National Board of Trial Advocacy - Certified Civil Trial Advocate;**
2. **Listed in Pennsylvania "Super Lawyers";**
3. **Member, American Board of Trial Advocates;**
4. **Member, American Association for Justice;**
5. **Member, Pennsylvania Association for Justice;**
6. **Member, Million Dollar Advocates Forum;**
7. **Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America;**
8. **Member, Luzerne County Rules Committee;**
9. **Presenter, Great Humanitarians Program (2008);**
10. **Board, Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services;**
11. **Board, Kiwanis International, Kingston Chapter;**
12. **Board, Employment Opportunity Training Center;**
13. **Greater Wilkes-Barre CYC Annual Fund, and**
14. **Fraternal Order of Police**

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

1. **Lecturer, Pennsylvania Bar Institute**
2. **Lecturer, Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association;**
3. **Lecturer, Luzerne County Bar Association;**
4. **Lecturer, Lehigh County Bar Association, and**
5. **Teaching Assistant for Trial Advocacy Class, Temple University School of Law**

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

**Evidence, Trial Advocacy, Psychiatric Malpractice, Medical Malpractice, Civil Procedure and Medical Documentation.**



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

---

---

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

**Listed in Pennsylvania "Super Lawyers"; Temple Law School - Barrister's Award for Legal Writing; Barrister's Award for Trial Advocacy; American Jurisprudence Prize for Evidence, American Jurisprudence Prize for Trusts and Estates, American Jurisprudence Prize for Real Estate Transactions; Pittston Area High School Moose Club Award for male graduate with highest four-year G.P.A., and Rotary Club for Academic Achievement.**

**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.

**I am uniquely qualified to serve and have the attributes necessary to do so. I have fought to protect the rights of everyday people in the courtroom for the past 25 years. That, combined with my education and work in Social Services, qualifies me to serve in all six divisions of our court without conflict. Having founded my own law firm, I know the meaning of conducting the business of the court with financial restraint and transparency. I am committed to serving with integrity and independence as an advocate for the people of Luzerne County.**

**During troubling economic and administrative times for Luzerne County, electing leaders with good moral fiber and excellent character is more important than ever. I know the law and how to follow courtroom procedures. I know how to be compassionate and still find an equitable solution. The people of Luzerne County can be assured that whatever their background, whatever their connections or affiliations, and no matter who they are up against, the courtroom belongs as much to them as to anyone, and that everyone who enters will be treated equally and fairly.**

My most important goals in serving on the Judiciary would be to institute a system where everyone is accountable for their actions and words. I would open up lines of communication among judges in each court, as well as among various levels of the judiciary and continue strengthening that communication with the public. Education is also an important function of improving confidence, both among constituents and among judges themselves. Our courts need to be more open and accountable to the public.

If elected, the people of Luzerne County can expect me to serve with humility, honesty and impartiality. I have the commitment and experience necessary to do the job. I will restore public trust and integrity to the court, institute cost effectiveness and work to reduce the backlog.

**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: Gene Spelazza

PRINT NAME: Gene Spelazza

DATE: 4/29/09