

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: Daniel Zola

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

If so, please state other name: _____

c. Firm Name: ZOLA LAW OFFICES

d. Firm Address: 129 Susquehanna Blvd

West Hazleton PA 18202

e. Date of Birth: 12/23/1975

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

Widener University School of Law

g. Date you obtained your law degree: May 2002

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:

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: Assistant District Attorney

3. **PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:**

- a. Firm Name Start Date/End Date (mo/yr)
- i. Luzerne County District Attorney 7/2005 - present
- ii. Zola Law Offices 9/2004 - present
- iii. Glassberg and Klemow Law Offices 6/2003 - 9/2004
- iv. _____

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

Pennsylvania 2003

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>
<u>Luzerne County Community College</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>King's College</u>	_____	<u>May 1999</u>	<u>BA</u>
<u>Widener University School of Law</u>	_____	<u>May 2002</u>	<u>JD</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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.

None

- 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	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
Certified Mediator	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no

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

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

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

Criminal Prosecutor for Luzerne County District Attorney's Off
Civil Law including Personal Injury, Workers'
Compensation, Real Estate and Family Law.
Municipal Law for Banks Township and
East Union Township.

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

Criminal Prosecution

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

State Courts of Record

Other courts/administrative agencies or other forums

100%

iii. The percentage of your litigations was the following:

Civil

Criminal

10%

90%

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. | <u>0</u> |
| b. | The number of civil bench trials you have tried to verdict. | <u>0</u> |
| c. | The number of mandatory arbitrations you have tried to verdict. | <u>0</u> |
| d. | The number of underinsured motorist cases you have tried in arbitration. | <u>0</u> |
| e. | The number of civil cases that you settled. | <u>10</u> |
| f. | The number of criminal jury trials you have tried to verdict. | <u>12</u> |
| g. | The number of criminal bench trials you have tried to verdict. | <u>10</u> |
| h. | The approximate number of hearings in which you have participated, either criminal or civil, before a district justice. | <u>100</u> |
| i. | The number of administrative hearings that you have presented before any administrative judge or board. | <u>0</u> |
| j. | The number of cases you have presented to a U. S. Bankruptcy Judge. | <u>0</u> |
| k. | The number of cases you have presented to award before a Workers' Compensation Judge. | <u>4</u> |
| l. | The number of Orphan's Court proceedings resulting in litigation. | <u>5</u> |
| m. | The number of juvenile proceedings in which you have participated. | <u>0</u> |

7. **CORPORATE BACKGROUND:**

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

yes no

b. If so, please explain. Sole proprietor of Zda Law
offices includes business management

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.

NO

9. **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND:**

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

If so, please explain in detail. _____

- d. Have you ever been charged with DUI? _____ yes ✓ 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.

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Lower Luzerne Bar Association

Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association

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

N/A

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

Criminal Prosecutions to Law Enforcement
Officers throughout Luzerne County

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

N/A

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

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 believe, as many of the voters in this community
do, that the most important characteristics
our Judges must have is honesty and integrity.
As an Assistant District Attorney I have upheld

the highest standards of professional conduct, integrity and honesty. The law enforcement agencies that I work with across Luzerne County have recognized that I am the clear choice to be our next Judge, which is why so many have endorsed me. The Hazleton Fraternal Order of Police endorsement stated "we are aware of your character as an individual, and your professional skills which you have demonstrated as an Assistant District Attorney". I have also been endorsed by the Pennsylvania State Education Association. These agencies have endorsed me because they know first hand my character as a person and my skills as a professional. I am a candidate that people can trust.

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: D. Zda

PRINT NAME: Daniel Zda

DATE: 5/1/09