

## Reasons for Judicial Recommendations

### PA. SUPREME COURT

#### DANIEL MCCAFFREY

Dan McCaffrey is a current judge of the Superior Court. He is polished, smart and an electable candidate. He spoke passionately about the Supreme Court as a policy-making body, the purpose of which is to protect the fundamental rights of Pennsylvanians. He identified the Dobbs decision as a unique threat to Pennsylvanians' civil liberties. It is imperative that Democrats win this seat in the fall and Judge McCaffrey is our best chance to do it.

### PA. SUPERIOR COURT

#### JILL BECK

Jill Beck is highly recommended by the PA Bar Association. This is her second run for a seat on the Superior Court. She has worked for KidsVoice representing neglected and abused children. From 2010-2013, she clerked for Justice Christine Donohue on the Superior Court and Pa. Supreme Court so she is very familiar with the cases that are brought there. In her interview, she was very thoughtful and articulate.

#### TIMIKA LANE

Timika Lane is running for Superior Court, having spent the last decade as a judge in the Court of Common Pleas. Judge Lane is highly recommended by both the Philadelphia and PA Bar Associations. Judge Lane is a former public defender, a well respected jurist in the Criminal Division and if elected, would be only the second Black woman elected to the PA Superior Court.

### PA COMMONWEALTH COURT

#### MATT WOLF

Judge Matt Wolf is the Supervising Civil Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court. He instituted the eviction diversion program which has become a national model. Since 2021 he has been working with the National Center for State Courts through a grant from the Pew Charitable Trust. He has worked on policy issues to reduce judgments and default judgments with an eye on avoiding unnecessary effects on litigants' credit ratings. After having served in the military JAG Corps in the Iraq and Afghanistan combat zones, he is

still in the Pa. Army National Guard. He was an active litigator for 25 years, practicing both civil (consumer claims, civil rights and employment litigation, veterans rights and administrative procedures) and criminal law. We believe he is electable statewide.

## **PA. COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

### **JESSICA BROWN**

Jessica Brown is a graduate of Temple University Law School. She has extensive experience in workers' rights and employment law. This is important because few judges in this Court have much experience in this area which is seeing an increase in this litigation. She worked for the Office of the Solicitor for Labor, Region III for over 10 years. She is currently in private practice handling employment cases representing labor unions and individual clients.

### **KEN JOEL**

Ken Joel is a sitting judge in the Criminal Division of the Court of Common Pleas. From January 2018-September 2021 he served as a Deputy General Counsel in the Governor's Office of General Counsel where he was a key member of the team handling election and COVID-19 related litigation. From December 2014-January 2018 he was the Chief Deputy Attorney General and head of litigation for the PA Attorney General's Office. He is a smart attorney with a deep understanding of the issues facing the Commonwealth from his many years in government service.

### **JOHN PADOVA**

John Padova has been sitting as a Common Pleas Court Judge since 2021 after appointment. He is serving in a felony waiver courtroom handling non-jury criminal trials. He has broad civil litigation experience as well. He has the litigation experience, temperament and deep knowledge of trial practice to make an admirable judge.

### **NATASHA TAYLOR-SMITH**

Natasha Taylor-Smith is highly recommended by the Philadelphia Bar Association and is recommended by the City Committee. She was undoubtedly the most impressive candidate we interviewed. She is a Federal Defender, was a Public Defender and has a background in general civil litigation. She teaches trial advocacy and sentencing advocacy at Temple Law. We found her to be very articulate with deeply considered, thoughtful, compassionate views on issues that mesh with our organization's values.

## **CAROLINE TURNER**

Caroline Turner is running for both Common Pleas Court and Municipal Court (She is permitted to run for both but if elected for both, she will withdraw from the Municipal Court race). In addition to being a Second Ward committee person, she is recommended by the Philadelphia Bar Association. Caroline is committed to reforming pretrial detention, bringing transparency to the court system and implementing restorative practices in the courtroom.

## **TAMIKA WASHINGTON**

Tamika Washington is a sitting judge in the Court of Common Pleas, having been appointed in 2022. In her interview, she spoke intelligently about restorative justice and the need to consider the circumstances of a defendant when imposing a sentence. She will surely be a compassionate and thoughtful judge.

## **SAMANTHA WILLIAMS**

Samantha Williams is a graduate of Temple Law School. She has worked for Councilmember Curtis Jones since 2016 as the Director of Legislation and Policy. In this role, she drafted important pieces of legislation. One of the most significant was the creation of the Philadelphia Citizens Police Oversight Commission that was signed into law in 2021. She feels strongly about community involvement and when asked about setting bail, she stated that individuals should not be punished before they have the opportunity to defend themselves. She is interested in civil liberties and serves on the board of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the ACLU. Her experience and intelligence make her an excellent choice to be a judge on the Court of Common Pleas.

## **KAY YU**

Kay Yu is a strong candidate with 30 years' experience and multiple progressive endorsements including from Nikil Saval and multiple unions. She is highly recommended by the Philadelphia Bar Association and endorsed by the City Committee. She came to this country as a child and was inspired to become an attorney when her family began receiving deportation notices. While Chairperson of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, she presided over a year long series of 11 public hearings to address intergroup conflicts in the City's public schools after racially motivated violence at South Phila. High in December 2009. She speaks passionately about how this experience led her to a deep commitment to restorative justice practices. In 2019 she ran for judge with our endorsement and placed 9<sup>th</sup> out of 25 candidates despite ballot position 24. She also served as Voter

Protection Director for the Biden/Harris campaign. If elected, she would be the first Korean American woman to serve as a state judge in the Commonwealth.

## **MUNICIPAL COURT**

### **BARBARA THOMSON**

Barbara Thomson has demonstrated that she will go to great lengths to accomplish her goals. She is clearly very bright, is motivated and will be a hard worker to serve the needs of the litigants in Municipal Court. She has been recommended by the Philadelphia Bar Association and by the City Committee.

### **CAROLINE TURNER**

See Caroline Turner's description above under Court of Common Pleas.