

## PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

1. State your full name:

Cheryl Lynn Allen

Have you ever been known by any other name? If so, please list.

Cheryl Lynn Craig

2. Office address (include zip code): Superior Court of Pennsylvania  
One Oxford Centre  
301 Grant Street, Suite 2550  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Office telephone (include area code): (412) 565-5230

Name of law firm, if associated:

3. Date and place of birth:

December 16, 1947 - Homestead, PA

4. Are you a naturalized citizen? If so, give date and place of naturalization:

N/A

5. Family status:

- a) Are you married? If so, state the date of marriage and your spouse's full name, including maiden name, if applicable:

Yes, February 18, 2005 - Jimmie Allen Skipwith

- b) Have you been divorced? If so, state the date, the number of the case and the court:

Yes, May 24, 1995 - FD-94-003678, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Family Division

6. Have you had any military service? If so,

- a) Give dates, branch of service, rank of rate, and present status:

N/A

- b) Have you ever been rejected or released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable? If so, give details:

N/A

7. List each college and law school you attended, including dates of attendance, and the degrees awarded and, if you left any institution without receiving a degree, the reason for leaving. List scholastic honors:

BS Degree - The Pennsylvania State University (1969)  
The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of  
Education (24 Hours Coursework Complete (No  
Degree due to Law School) - (1971-1972)  
JD Degree - The University of Pittsburgh School of Law (1975)

8. List all jurisdictions in which you have applied to take a bar examination, have applied for admission or have been admitted to practice. Include dates of admissions and if not admitted, give application dates and explain the outcome.

Pennsylvania

9. Describe chronologically your law practice and experience after your graduation from law school and until you became a member of the judiciary, including:

- a) Whether you served as clerk to a judge and, if so, the name of the judge, the court, and the dates of the period you were a clerk:

N/A

- b) Whether you practiced alone and, if so, the addresses and the dates:

(See Attached)

- c) The dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been connected and the nature of your connection with each:

Staff Attorney - Neighborhood Legal Services (1975-1976)  
Staff Attorney - PA Human Relations Commission (1976-1977)  
Assistant County Solicitor - Allegheny County Law Department (1977-1999)

- d) Any other relevant particulars:

N/A

Cheryl Lynn Allen

Pennsylvania Bar Association  
Judicial Evaluation Commission  
Personal Data Questionnaire

#9B

I conducted a small civil private practice beginning in 1977 and continuing until 1990 when appointed to the Bench. This practice was run contemporaneously with my full-time and successive employment with Neighborhood Legal Services, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, and the Allegheny County Law Department. Accordingly, I would see clients and perform non-court work during evenings or weekends.

10. a) What was the general character of your practice, dividing it into periods with dates if its character changed over the years?

My practice of law has always been characterized by a strong commitment to public service and the representation of the disadvantaged.

- b) Describe your typical clients and mention the areas, if any, in which you concentrated your practice:

At Neighborhood Legal Services, I represented indigent individuals in all civil non-fee producing cases. At the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, I represented victims of discrimination. When I became a County Solicitor, I represented dependent children who came from home environments of abuse and neglect.

11. What judicial office do you now hold? State whether you have been appointed or elected and the dates thereto. Describe the jurisdiction of such court and any limitations thereon. Have you ever held any other judicial office? If so, please state the offices, courts and the periods of such service. Please describe the jurisdiction of each of such courts, with any limitations upon the jurisdiction of each court:

- Superior Court of Pennsylvania (Elected, November 2007)
- Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Criminal Division, (Appointed July 1990; 2004-2008)
- Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division, (Juvenile Section), (Elected November 1991); 1992-2004
- Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division, (Juvenile Section), (Retained November 2001)

12. For the last five years or portions thereof during which you have held judicial office, indicate,

- a) The nature of typical matters which came before you:

(See Attached)

- b) The per centage of your time devoted to:

1. Civil:

2. Criminal:

3. Other:

Cheryl Lynn Allen

Pennsylvania Bar Association  
Judicial Evaluation Commission  
Personal Data Questionnaire

#12A

January 2008 to present - Superior Court deciding criminal and civil appeals.

2004 - 2007 - Criminal Court hearing matters concerning adults who are charged with crimes such as: drug possession, gun charges, drunken driving, rape, receiving stolen property, and murder.

c) The percentage of your time devoted to:

See 12A on Page 4A

1. Jury:

2. Non-jury:

3. Appellate argument:

4. Other:

d) Five of the more significant opinions you have rendered and citations thereto if the cases were reported:

See Attached Superior Court Published Opinions

13. If a substantial portion of your practice had been before administrative boards, commissions or agencies during the five years before you became a member of the judiciary, identify the boards, commissions or agencies before which you practiced and estimate percentages of practice time devoted thereto:

Pittsburgh Human Relations Commission

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

14. If a substantial portion of your practice had been before Appellate courts during the five years before you became a member of the judiciary, identify the Appellate Courts before which you have practiced and estimate percentages of practice time devoted thereto:

Pennsylvania Supreme & Superior Court (25% of the time)

Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County (75% of the time)

15. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, give details, including the office involved, whether elected or appointed, and the length of your services, giving dates:

No

16. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates:

?

17. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law or the holding of judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including dates:

Teacher - Pittsburgh Public Schools (9/1969 - 6/1972)

18. Are you now an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? If so, give details, including the name of your enterprise, the nature of the business, the title or other description of your position, the nature of your duties and the term of your service.

No

19. Have you ever been arrested, charged with or convicted of violating any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If so, give details. Do not include summary traffic offenses:

No

20. Are you under any ongoing federal, state or local investigation or indictment for possible violation of a criminal statute? If so, give particulars:

No

21. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? If so, give particulars:

No

22. If requested, will you submit certified copies of your latest tax returns (including Federal Income Tax)?

Yes

23. Prior to taking the bench, were you ever sued by a client? If so, give particulars:

No

24. Have you ever been a party or otherwise involved in any other legal proceedings? If so, give the particulars. Do not list proceedings in which you were merely a guardian ad litem or stakeholder. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, a material witness, were named as co-conspirator or a co-respondent and any grand jury investigation in which you figured as a subject or in which you appeared as a witness:

In 2000, a complaint was filed & dismissed by EEOC. This was filed by an employee following her discharge (Betty Davis).

25. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct or has any complaint against you been filed with the Court of Judicial Discipline? If so, give the particulars:

No

26. What is the present state of your health? (If any medical condition or issue exists, you may be requested to execute a medical record authorization form as part of the interview process.)

Excellent

27. Do any circumstances exist that would affect your ability to perform the function of the position you seek or fulfill the term of office? If so, please explain:

No



28. Furnish at least five examples of legal articles, law review articles, briefs, or other legal writings which reflect your personal work. If briefs are submitted, indicate the degree to which they represent your personal work:

See Attached Superior Court Published Opinions

29. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups. List chairmanships of any committees in bar associations and professional societies and memberships on any committees which you believe to be of particular significance (e.g., judicial selection committee, disciplinary committee, grievance committee).

- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- National Association for Family & Juvenile Court Judges
- Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges Commission
- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency -  
Disproportionate Minorities in Confinement Committee

30. List your experiences in teaching and lecturing, including law school, continuing legal education, both for the legal community and the judiciary, and to non-legal audiences.

Point Park University, Associate Professor  
Ethics in Crime & Justice, America's Courts  
and the Criminal Justice System

31. List all organizations other than bar associations, professional associations or societies of which you are or have been a member, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations:

- National/Regional Church CARE, Advisory Board Member
- Waynesburg University, Board of Trustees Board Member
- Hosanna House, Board Member
- Cornerstone Television, Board Member
- Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, Board Member
- Court Appointment Special Advocate (CASA), Former Board Member
- Child Watch, Former Board Member

Superior Court

**Published Opinions**

**Judge Allen**

**January 2 – November 21, 2008**

Journal Number	Docket Number	Case Name	Date Filed
A05038/08	1726 EDA 2007	Shepard v. Temple	05/05/08
A14034/08	524 WDA 2007	Com. v. Koratichs	05/28/08
A14042/08	905 WDA 2007	Schmidt v. Boardman	09/02/08
A14043/08	1068 WDA 2007	Sirio v. Sirio	06/24/08
A17020/08	1662 EDA 2007	Com. v. Griffin	07/29/08
A17028/08	3194 EDA 2007	Mescanti v. Mescanti	08/29/08
E03005/08	899 EDA 2007	In Re: C.L.G.	08/26/08
S20022/08	1351 MDA 2007	Com. v. Michaliga	04/23/08
S46022/08	2111 WDA 2007	Com. v. McBride	09/18/08 (Remanded. Juris. Retained)
S64038/08	457 MDA 2008	Com. v. Jones	10/31/08

32. List any honors, prizes, awards or other forms of recognition which you have received (including any indication of academic distinction in college or law school) other than those mentioned in answers to the foregoing questions.

As with many judges, I have been the recipient of numerous awards and recognition. The most current awards are listed below with a full list in the attached biographical.

- New Pittsburgh Courier's Women of Excellence Award, 2008
- The Legal Intelligencer & Pa Law Weekly Women of Year, 2008
- Bidwell United Presbyterian Church Phenomenal Award, 2008
- Campfire USA Incredible Kid Day Breakfast of Champions, 2008
- Celebrate & Share Woman of Achievement Honor Award, 2008

33. State any other information which may reflect positively or adversely on you or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for an election/retention to an Appellate Court of Pennsylvania.

(See Attached Biography)

(See Attached Judicial Leadership Statement)

34. Why do you wish to become a Justice or Judge? What special strengths do you feel you possess that would particularly well qualify you for the position of Justice or Judge?

Since my graduation from law school in 1975, I have practiced law for the benefit of those who most need the law—the indigent, the disadvantaged, and the disenfranchised. My fifteen years of experience as a trial & appellate attorney and my twelve years of experience as a judge have always focused on the implementation of the law in a manner that truly benefits the quality of an individual's life and our society as a whole.

35. Did you sign the PBA Judicial Campaign Advertising Guidelines? (Please return signed pledge with completed questionnaire.)

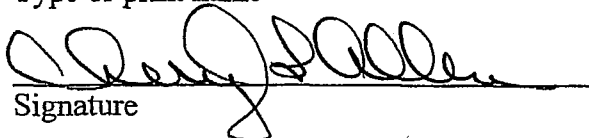
Yes

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

The undersigned certifies that all of the statements made in this questionnaire are true, complete and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief and are made in good faith.

Cheryl Lynn Allen

Type or print name



Signature

Nov. 26, 2009  
Date

## HONORABLE CHERYL L. ALLEN

### BUSINESS ADDRESS:

Superior Court of Pennsylvania  
One Oxford Centre, Suite 2550  
301 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 565-5230; (412) 565-5331 (fax)  
[Judge.allen@pacourts.us](mailto:Judge.allen@pacourts.us)

### EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:

1975	J.D. Degree	University of Pittsburgh School of Law
1971-1972	Graduate Study	Elementary Education, University of Pittsburgh
1969	B.S. Degree	Elementary Education, Pennsylvania State University
1965	Diploma	Schenley High School, Pittsburgh, PA

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

01/07/2008-present	Judge	Superior Court of Pennsylvania
2004 - 01/04/2008	Judge	Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Criminal Division
2001-2006	Associate Professor	Point Park University, <i>Ethics in Crime &amp; Justice, America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System</i>
1992-2004	Judge	Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas – Family Division – Juvenile Section <i>Trial Judge in <u>In re: D.B.</u>, 705 A.2d 443 (Pa. Super. 1997) which resulted in the determination that the PA Rules of Criminal Procedure do not apply to juveniles;</i> Juvenile Court Supervising Judge 1999-2003 <i>Trial Judge for <u>Commonwealth vs. CP</u>, 841 A.2d 128 (Pa. 2003)</i> <i>Trial Judge for <u>Commonwealth vs. TG</u>, 845 A.2d 870 (Pa. 2004)</i> <i>Trial Judge for <u>Commonwealth vs. LA</u>, 853 A.2d 388 (Pa. 2004)</i> <i>Trial Judge for <u>In re: Griffin</u>, 690 A.2d 1192 (Pa. Super. 1996)</i>
1990-1991	Judge	Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas – Criminal Division <i>Trial judge <u>Commonwealth v. McPhail</u>, 692 A.2d 139 (Pa. 1997) which impacted PA Rules of Criminal Procedure 130 and 555</i>

1977-1990	Assistant Solicitor	Allegheny County Law Department – Responsibilities included preparing and presenting dependency petitions in Juvenile Court; permanency planning; termination of parental rights and adoption; employment discrimination; unemployment compensation; civil litigation; administrative hearings; and appellate court preparation.
1988-1990	Hearing Officer	Allegheny County Disadvantaged and Women’s Business Enterprise Appeal Board – Responsibilities included hearing appeals from denial or certification as a disadvantaged or woman-owned business enterprise. Preparing findings of fact, conclusions of law and opinions.
1989-1990	Member	National Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association.
1980-1990	Attorney	Private practice of law as sole practitioner in areas of family law, discrimination, litigation, bankruptcy, wills, unemployment compensation, workers’ compensation, social security and personal injury, and criminal litigation.
1979-1987	General Counsel	Wilksburg Chapter, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Responsibilities included providing legal consultation and representation of Chapter regarding discrimination complaints and community relations.
1976-1977	Assistant Counsel	Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Responsibilities included processing and litigating discrimination complaints in employment, housing, and education as well as serving as Legal Advisor to Commissioners and appellate court preparation.
1975-1976	Attorney	Neighborhood Legal Services, Pittsburgh, PA. Responsibilities included landlord/tenant cases, family law, bankruptcy, unemployment compensation, social security disability, and administrative hearings, civil litigation, and appellate court preparation.
1974-1975	Law Clerk	Johnson & Johnson law firm.
1974-1975	Law Clerk	Allegheny County Public Defender’s Office.
1973-1975	Law Clerk	Law Department of the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education.
1973-1975	Academic Advisor	College of Arts and Science, University of Pittsburgh.
1969-1972	Teacher	Northview Heights Elementary School, Pittsburgh Public Schools.

1969            Teacher                            Summer Head Start Program, Homestead, PA.

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- ❖ National/Regional Church CARE, Advisory Board Member
- ❖ Waynesburg University, Board of Trustees Board Member
- ❖ Hosanna House, Board Member
- ❖ Cornerstone Television, Board Member
- ❖ Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, Board Member
- ❖ PA Department of Health's Adolescent Health Task Force (Former Member)
- ❖ Institute for Research, Education & Training in Addictions (IRETA), Former Board Member
- ❖ Court Appointment Special Advocate (CASA), Former Board Member
- ❖ Communities in Schools, Former Board Member
- ❖ Child Watch, Former Board Member
- ❖ Lydia's Place, Former Board Member
- ❖ Theotherapy, Inc. Former Board Member
- ❖ Women for a Meaningful Summit: Represented organization at summit meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, 1985 and Reykjavik, Iceland, 1986.
- ❖ Minority and Women's Business Enterprise Commission, City of Pittsburgh: Appointed by Mayor Richard Caliguiri to oversee government loans to private construction projects to insure minority and women's business participation.
- ❖ National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Pittsburgh Club
- ❖ Mayor's Task Force on Women: Member, Child Care Committee
- ❖ Pittsburgh Chapter, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Member
- ❖ Stanton Heights Recreation Association, Former Board Member
- ❖ Young Women's Christian Association, Former Board Member
- ❖ Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Community Service Center, Former Board Member

### SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 2004-2006      Juvenile Court Project – Birth Parent Mentoring Program
- 2005            Task Force Member Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation, Advocating for Children of Prisoners
- 2005            Appointed to the Allegheny County Board of Elections
- 2001-2006      Associate Professor at Point Park University
- 2003            Member, Faith, Law & Morality Committee of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- 1992-2004      Member, National Association for Family and Juvenile Court Judges

- 2002-2005 Appointed to the Juvenile Court Judges Commission by Governor Mark Schweiker
- 1998-Present Member, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Disproportionate Minorities in Confinement Subcommittee
- 1990 Duquesne University School of Law Lecturer, *The Adoption Act of 1980 and the Juvenile Act of 1980.*
- 1989 University of Pittsburgh – Graduate School of Social Work – Guest Lecturer, *Protection Services for Dependent Children.*
- 1988-1987 Carlow College – Guest Lecturer, *Bankruptcy Act and Uniform Commercial Code.*

#### AWARDS:

- ❖ New Pittsburgh Courier's Women of Excellence Awards, 2008
- ❖ The Legal Intelligencer and Pennsylvania Law Weekly Women of the Year, 2008
- ❖ Bidwell United Presbyterian Church Phenomenal Woman's Award, 2008
- ❖ Camp Fire USA Incredible Kid Day Breakfast of Champions, 2008
- ❖ Celebrate & Share Woman of Achievement Honor Award, 2008
- ❖ 3 Rivers Youth Nellie Leadership Award, 2006
- ❖ YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh 2006 *A Tribute to Women Award*
- ❖ Pennsylvania Commission for Women's 2005 Woman's History Month Award
- ❖ Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Award 2004
- ❖ Allegheny County Bar Association Juvenile Justice Award 2004
- ❖ CASA Volunteer Recognition Award 2004
- ❖ Second Chance, Inc. Women of Standard Award 2004
- ❖ Jubilee International Ministries Catalyst for Change Award 2003
- ❖ Message Carriers First Annual Tree of Hope in Life Award 2003
- ❖ Every Child, Inc. Champion of Permanency Award 2003
- ❖ Rankin Christian Center 1<sup>st</sup> Community Service Award 2003
- ❖ University of Pittsburgh Women Law Association Woman of the Year 2002
- ❖ First Annual Sojourner Award 2001
- ❖ Renaissance Magazine Trailblazer Award 2000
- ❖ National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women Sojourner Truth Award 2000
- ❖ University of Pittsburgh Alumni of the Year 1999
- ❖ Family Resources Special Recognition Award 1990
- ❖ Alpha Kappa Alpha Black Woman of Achievement 1987
- ❖ Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Greater Pittsburgh Achiever 1987
- ❖ Black Women's Political Crusade Annual Sweetheart 1987
- ❖ Pennsylvania Women's Campaign Fund Woman of Distinction 1986
- ❖ Negro Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Professional Woman of the Year 1986
- ❖ N'AMAT USA Woman of Achievement 1986
- ❖ Young Adult Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women Juvenile Justice Award 1983



❖ Outstanding Young Women of America 1980, 1982, and 1983

**PERSONAL:**

Judge Allen was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and is the eldest of five siblings to Robert and Corrine Allen. She is married to Jimmie Skipwith and is the mother of three grown sons. Raising her sons to be responsible and productive young men is one of her proudest accomplishments.

Judge Allen's career is distinguished by an exclusive and unwavering commitment to public service, and her myriad of accomplishments rest solidly with her faith in God. Judge Allen is an ordained elder. She serves in numerous capacities including Bible instruction and is active in a ministry called Women Without Walls that brings women together across denominational and racial lines to tear down the walls of division that tends to separate the church. Judge Allen loves to sing and read.

11/6/2008

## Judge Allen's Judicial Leadership

From 1999 to 2003, Judge Allen served as Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. During this time, Judge Allen initiated and implemented changes which positively impacted both juveniles and taxpayers.

For example, Shuman Detention Center suffered from overcrowding and Allegheny County officials were contemplating a costly expansion in order to ameliorate the problem. Judge Allen was instrumental at this time in the creation of diversion programs for youth ages 10-14, in which the juveniles were housed in their residences rather than Shuman Detention Center. The diversion program was implemented city-wide through the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program, and county-wide through the Rankin Christian Center. In addition, Judge Allen advocated for the increase in electric home monitoring of juveniles. Perhaps most significantly, Judge Allen increased the frequency of detention hearings from every other day to daily, so that juveniles did not languish in Shuman Detention Center, or in some cases, the Allegheny County Jail. While keeping more children out of Shuman Detention Center, Judge Allen also ceased the policy of using the Allegheny County Jail to accommodate the excess capacity of Shuman Detention Center. Judge Allen's reforms alleviated the overcapacity burden on Shuman Detention Center, so that expansion was unnecessary and Allegheny County – and its taxpayers – saved millions of dollars.

Judge Allen also made a positive and permanent impact on the education of juveniles who were adjudicated delinquent in Allegheny County by initiating the The Academy alternative summer school program, which ultimately became The Academy Charter School. The Academy was established as an alternative to the out-of-county residential and educational placement of Pittsburgh's court-adjudicated male and female youth. This program was created to address the educational needs of the juveniles who were truant, suspended, tardy for class, or who were presenting disruptive behavior in school. Some of these students had not been in school for more than a year and had "fallen off the radar" of the educational system. With the implementation of The Academy program, these students often experienced a successful return to the classroom. The Academy program often resulted in improved attendance and grades, which was a significant achievement for these "forgotten" students. The success of the Academy program was evidenced in 2003 when it was granted charter school status within the Pittsburgh Public Schools.