

PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

1. State your full name: Paula Francisco Ott

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

Paula Ott
Paula F. Ott
Paula Diane Francisco
Paula D. Francisco

2. Office address (include zip code):
201 W. Market St. Court Room #1
West Chester PA 19380

Office telephone (include area code):
610 344-6185

Name of law firm, if associated:

3. Date and place of birth:
a) September 17, 1950 Pittsburgh, PA

4. Are you a naturalized citizen? If so, give date and place of naturalization:
No

5. Family status:
b) Are you married? If so, state the date of marriage and your spouse's full name, including maiden name, if applicable:
Yes, May 9, 1981 Ray H. Ott, Jr.

c) Have you been divorced? If so, state the date, the number of the case and the court: No

6. Have you had any military service? If so, No
a) Give dates, branch of service, rank of rate, and present status:

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

NO

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:

University of Delaware, 1968-1972 B.A. 1972

Temple University School of Law, 1972-1975 J.D.

Temple University School of Law, 1979-1981 L.L.M. in Taxation

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 1975 applied and admitted

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

Assistant District Attorney District Attorney's Office of Chester County 1975 - 1978
Chester County Courthouse
West Chester, PA 19380

Assistant County Solicitor Chester County Solicitor's Office 1978 - 1981
Chester County Courthouse
West Chester, PA 19380

Partner Gawthrop, Greenwood & Halsted 1981-1992
P.O. Box 562
West Chester, PA 19381-0562

- d) Any other relevant particulars:

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

- 1975-1978 Assistant District Attorney – self-explanatory
- 1978-1981 Assistant County Solicitor – representing Chester County in federal litigation brought by prisoners and rendering legal advice to the Commissioners and various administrative departments.
- 1981-1992 Private Practice – Estate planning and administration, tax planning for businesses and individuals; real estate transactions; and creation of non-profit corporations.

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

Individuals: writing wills and trusts, tax planning, income tax preparation and formation of and tax planning for Subchapter S corporations; real estate settlements.

Executors: Estate administration and filing of all applicable inheritance tax returns; litigation in Orphans' Court, if necessary.

Chester County Hospital – formation of Foundation and representation at bond issues for major construction project and refinancing.

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:

- Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Chester County, 15th Judicial District
- Elected November 1991, Retained November 2001
- Court of general jurisdiction—I have presided over Criminal, Civil, Family Court, Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency Cases. I have presided in Orphans' Court since 1992, and have been the President Judge of Orphans' Court since 2002
- Elected President Judge of the Chester County Court of Common Pleas in January 2005

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:

- Orphans' Court cases which included adoption, termination of parental rights, guardianships, will contests, power of attorney litigation, and other estate administration issues.
- Criminal Court cases, all matters until January 2003, then only limited criminal cases -- 2 homicide trials and 1 robbery trial;
- Miscellaneous Court assignment, including Summary Appeals, Violations of Probation, Protection from Abuse and License Suspensions
- All Election Code litigation filed in Chester County

b) The percentage of your time devoted to:

1. Civil: Orphans' Court 60%
2. Criminal: 10%
3. Other: Administrative duties as President Judge 30%

c) The percentage of your time devoted to:

1. Jury: 2%
2. Non-jury: 68%
3. Appellate argument: 0
4. Other: Administrative duties of President Judge 30%

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

Longwood Gardens, Inc. v. Chester County Board of Assessment Appeals, No. 01-00146, 2001 WL 1861375 (Pa.Com.Pl.), 54 Pa. D. & C.4th 353

Reliance Insurance Co. v. Schoolfield Construction Co., No. 90-10361, 1992 WL 494957 (Pa.Cm.Pl.), 14 Pa. D. & C.4th 490

Vanderkraats Estate, 27 Fiduc.Rep.2d 328 (O.C. Div. Chester 2007)

Winslow Estate, 1993 WL 313161 (Pa. Com. Pl.), 19 Pa. D. & C.4th 61

Adoption of K.L.M.T., 28 Fiduc.Rep.2d 102 (O.C. Div. Chester 2008)

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:

N/A

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:

N/A

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:

NO

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:

NO

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)?

I am willing to provide certified copies of tax returns that shows all of my sole income and income from jointly owned properties, but I am not willing, at this time, to provide information regarding my husband's solely-owned business, as he is not the candidate.

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:

Michael Norley v. State of Pennsylvania, et al., United States District Court, Eastern District of PA, No. 05-05311 – *TERMINATED 11/13/2006* – sued in capacity as judge because I failed to rule in his favor in a mortgage foreclosure action

Thomas E. Martin, Jr., Magisterial District Judge in and for Magisterial District 15-4-04, et al. v. Joseph Carroll, District Attorney of Chester County, et al., Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Middle District, No. 64 MM 2007 – *CLOSED 7/11/2008* – sued in capacity as President Judge concerning the use of constables in the Magisterial District Courts.

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:

Authored no law review articles. Any briefs written while in private practice or in the Solicitor's Office are too old to obtain. My decisions as a judge are submitted in addition to the Opinions in response to Item 12(d).

The following samples are attached hereto:

Commonwealth v. Anthony Boggs, Criminal Action No. 505-97

Commonwealth v. Stephen Clarke, Criminal Action No. 223-04

Commonwealth v. Philip Washington, No. 2325-06, 2421-06 & 5404-06

Trust Of Marjorie S. Daylor, Settlor Sur Charitable Remainder Unitrust, Orphans' Court No. 1500-0477, 49 Ches.Co.Rep. 174 (2001)

IN RE: Adoptions of K.M.N.S. & S.E.S., Orphans' Court Nos. AD-08-0075 & AD-08-0076

IN RE: Guardianship Of Nelda Wynn Davis, Orphans' Court No. 1506-1705

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).

Member, Pennsylvania Bar Association and Chester County Bar Association; Stively Inn of Court

Member, National Association of Women Judges

Member, Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges

President, Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges (2003-2004)

Co-Chair, President Judges Committee, Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges

Member, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee

Member, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Joint State Government Commission, Advisory Committee on Decedents' Estates Laws

Member, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Judicial Council of Pennsylvania, Advisory Committee on Court Reporting and Transcripts (Compensation Subcommittee Chair)

Member, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Commission for Justice Initiatives in Pennsylvania (2004 – 2009)

Member, Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness Implementation Committee (2003-2005)

Member, Task Force of the National Center for Juvenile Justice: *Policy Alternatives and Current Court Practice in the Special Problem Areas of Jurisdiction Over the Family* (1992-1993)

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.

Chaired the Chester County Meet Your Judges Program for ten years

Chester County Bar Association Lunch and Learn for the Young Lawyers Division

Keynote Speaker Chester County Bar Association's Law Day Luncheon,

Participated in Law Day Mock Trials at local elementary school

Instructor, Chester County School of Government

Panel member presentation for the Philadelphia Estate Planning Council

Speaker for the Chester County Estate Planning Council on the State of the Orphans' Court

Guest Lecturer at Immaculata College criminal justice class and Villanova University Law School, Trial Tactics course.

Numerous civic organizations on the subject of the Chester County Court system, such as Rotary and Lions Club.

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:

Trustee, Chester County Hospital Foundation

Member, West Chester Rotary Club

State Parliamentarian, Pennsylvania Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (1991-1992)

District Director, District 10 (Chester and Delaware Counties), Pennsylvania Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (1989-1990)

President, West Chester Business and Professional Women's Club

President, Chamber of Commerce of Greater West Chester (1990)

Involved with numerous community activities over the years.

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.

Honoree, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Commission for Women, Honor Roll of Women

March of Dimes Woman of Achievement for Public Service (1993)

2008 President's Award, Chester County Bar Association

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.

Rated "Qualified" by the Chester County Bar Association in 1991, and again in 2001.

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?

I believe it is important for an experienced trial court judge to sit on the Superior Court. The highest volume of appeals are criminal matters and I have been in criminal court for 14 of my 18 years and presided over all types of criminal cases, including two death penalty trials and four other homicide trials. There are no judges currently on the Superior Court with the extensive Orphans' Court experience that I have. I have

presided over Orphans' Court cases my entire judicial career, and I am a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Orphans' Court Rules Committee and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Decedents' Estates Laws.

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.

Paula Francisco Ott
Type or print name

Paula Francisco Ott
Signature

August 13, 2009
Date