

## PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

1. State your full name: **Deborah Anne Kunselman**

Have you ever been known by any other name? If so, please list.  
**Yes. Deborah Anne Ganter**

2. Office address (include zip code): **Beaver County Courthouse  
810 Third Street  
Beaver, PA 15009**

Office telephone (include area code): **(724) 770-4686**

Name of law firm, if associated:

3. Date and place of birth: **September 24, 1967  
Wiesbaden, Germany (U.S. military base)**

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

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. Married, July 23, 1994  
Christopher Robert Kunselman**

b) 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. I applied and was accepted as an Air Force JAG Officer in 1992. However, I failed the physical due to knee surgery I underwent in high school. I requested a waiver in August 1992, but my request was denied in November 1992, shortly after the 1992 presidential election.**

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:

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:

**Pennsylvania State University 1985-1989, B.A. in Foreign Service and International Politics, with Honors in Political Science and with High Distinction**  
**University Scholars Program/Schreyer Honors College, 1985-1989**  
**Universität zu Kiel, Germany, Spring Semester, 1988**  
**Phi Beta Kappa, Honor Society**  
**Omicron Delta Kappa, Leadership Honor Society**

**University of Notre Dame School of Law, 1989-1992, Juris Doctor, cum laude**  
**Journal of College and University Law, Notes Editor**

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, applied and admitted 1992**

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:

N/A

- 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:

**Babst Calland Clements & Zomnir: Nov. 1992- September 1994, associate**  
**Marcus & Shapira: September 1994- December 1995, associate**  
**McMillen Urick Tocci Fouse & Jones: January 1996 – December 2005**  
**associate and independent contractor**

**Beaver County Solicitor: June 1998-December 2005**

- 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?

**Civil litigation (1992-2005)**

**Family Law (1996-2005)**

**Municipal/Government Law (1997-2005)**

**Employment Law (2000-2005)**

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

**From 1992-1994, my clients were corporations and my focus was on contract disputes, environmental issues and fraud cases.**

**From 1996-2005, my clients included victims of personal injury accidents, persons in family crisis (divorce, custody, support and PFA) and those wrongfully discharged or discriminated against in their employment. Also from 1998-2005, I was the Beaver County Solicitor, and I represented County Government in tax matters, contract matters and other civil litigation.**

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:

**Beaver County Court of Common Pleas, trial court judge  
Elected 2005 and Retained 2015**

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:

**Civil litigation: jury and non-jury trials, personal injury (malpractice, auto accident, slip and fall) property disputes, contract disputes, tax claim matters,**

**Family law matters: custody, PFA**

**Juvenile matters: including juvenile dependency and juvenile delinquency**

- b) The percentage of your time devoted to:

1. Civil: **95%**

2. Criminal: **5% (juvenile delinquency)**

3. Other:

c) The percentage of your time devoted to:

1. Jury: 40%
2. Non-jury: 60%
3. Appellate argument: 0
4. Other: 0

d) Five of the more significant opinions you have rendered and citations thereto if the cases were reported: All of these opinions are solely my work. Copies are provided along with the appellate review of these cases.

1. **Stewart v. FedEx**, No. 11222 of 2013  
(2014 WL 2881804), (affirmed, 114 A.3d 424 (Pa. Super 2015)).
2. **Roman v. McGuire Memorial**, No. 11624 of 2011  
(2015 WL 6166987), (affirmed, 127 A.3d 26 (Pa. Super 2015)).
3. **Montagazzi v. Crisci** – No. 11367 of 2007  
8 Pa D&C 5<sup>th</sup> 303 2009 WL 2757909  
(Affirmed, 994 A.2d 626 (Pa. Super 2010)).
4. **Kotzbauer v. Kotzbauer**, No. 260 DR 97  
(Affirmed, 937 A.2d 487 (Pa. Super 2007)).
5. **Eaton v. Bank of America**, No. 10939 of 2013  
(Affirmed, not reported, 2014 WL 10752211).

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:

**Unemployment board of compensation, 3%**  
**EEOC, PHRC, 5%**

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:

**I practiced before Appellate courts before I became a judge, but I would not describe this as a “substantial portion” of my practice.**

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:

**Beaver County Solicitor, Appointed in 1998**

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:

**Yes, but only in the summer during college and law school.**

**Day Camp Director, Cloverleaf YMCA, Pittsburgh, Summers 1986 - 1988**

**Summer Intern, Bayer Headquarters, Leverkusen, Germany, Summers 1989-1990**

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:

**Yes. I was an intervening defendant in an election recount matter filed by my opponent following the primary election in 2005. Several petitions to open ballot boxes were filed and consolidated at No. 11035 of 2005. I was successful in defending this litigation.**

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.)

**My health is good. I suffer from hypothyroidism, but it is treated with medication.**

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:

**Five Other Legal Writings:** Additional Opinions of Interest, 100% my personal work, copies are included (along with appellate review where appropriate).

1. **Murphy v. Marenic** – No. 11685 of 2015  
1925(a) Opinion – Appeal withdrawn by Defendant. 2 Opinions, 2/14/11 and 6/1/11
  2. **Baird v. Macklin**, 6 Pa. D&C 5<sup>th</sup> 193 (2008) 2008 WL. 5600765
  3. **LaSalle Bank v. Miller**, 11 Pa. D&C 5<sup>th</sup> 449 (2010) 2010 WL. 2510899
  4. **Showalter v. Pantaleo**, No. 11074 of 2008 – 2 Opinions - 10/16/09, 3/31/10.  
(Affirmed, 9 A.3d 233 (Pa. Super. 2010)).
  5. **Butts v. Erie**, No. 10036 of 2016
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).

**ABA, Judicial Division**

**Pa. Bar Association**

**Beaver County Bar Association**

**Pa. State Trial Judges Conference, Judicial Education Committee, 2011-present**

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.

**I have taught numerous classes to the judiciary, lawyers and non-legal audiences. A complete list of these classes is attached as a supplement to this questionnaire.**

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:

**St. Frances Cabrini Roman Catholic Church, CCD teacher, 2008-2015**

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.

**PA Super Lawyers, Rising Star in Legal Profession, 2004-2005**

**Athena Award Nominee, 2005**

**Brentwood High School, Hall of Fame, Inducted 2007**

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.

**I am proud to have implemented procedures in Beaver County under Act 53, 71 P.S. § 1690.112a, which allows parents to petition the court for involuntary commitment of their minor children for drug and alcohol treatment. After several meetings with Beaver County Behavioral Health and Allegheny County Courts, we put a process in place in the spring of 2014. The process involves standard forms for petitioners, waiving of any filing fees, appointment of counsel for the minor child, an ASAM evaluation by a certified drug and alcohol evaluator and placement, if necessary, with treatment facilities who accept court appointed minors, as well as follow-up hearings to check on the minor's progress. Since its inception, we have helped more than 20 teenagers get the help they need to overcome their drug and alcohol dependence. Although Act 53 was passed in 1997, many counties in Pennsylvania still do not have a process in place to facilitate this treatment opportunity for families who need it.**

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?

**For the past 11 years, I have had the privilege to serve as a Common Pleas Judge, in Beaver County. As part of this job, I conduct oral arguments on preliminary objections, motions for judgment on the pleadings, motions for summary judgment and post-trial motions. This is one of the duties I enjoy most about being a judge. Often, I could decide these issues with a simple order granting or denying the motion without comment. However, many times I choose to write opinions to give the parties the reasons for my decisions. I would like to be an appellate judge so I can focus all of my time on oral arguments and opinion writing.**

**Having been a trial court judge, I bring the perspective of deciding evidentiary, procedural and other issues as they are presented, without the benefit of hindsight.**



**As an appellate judge, reviewing the decisions of the trial court, this background will be invaluable.**

**I believe the strengths I possess that would particularly well qualify me for this position are my broad experience, as both an attorney and a trial court judge, my practical approach to resolving legal matters, and my ability to explain complex legal issues in simple terms so the parties can understand the decision of the court.**

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

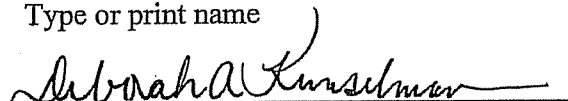
**Yes.**

**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.

Deborah A. Kunselman

Type or print name



Signature

November 17, 2016

Date

**DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN**  
**TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Question No. 30)**

**I. CLASSES TAUGHT TO JUDICIARY**

Pennsylvania New Judges School  
Family Law Instructor – 2012, 2016

**JUDICIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE - COURSE PLANNER/MODERATOR**

Key Issues in the New Child Custody Act, 2013  
International Child Custody Cases, 2012  
Conducting Custody Pre-Trial Conferences, 2014  
Interviewing the Child Witness, 2014  
Authentication of Electronic Evidence, 2013  
Understanding DNA Evidence, 2015  
Should the Record be Sealed?, 2016  
Nursing Home Litigation. 2012  
Is this a Custody, Dependency or PFA Case? 2015  
The Disappearing Civil Jury Trial, planned for 2017

**II. CLASSES TAUGHT TO LAWYERS**

Ethical Considerations in Prosecution/Defense of Personal Injury Actions – 2003  
Handling the Tax Assessment Appeal – 2004  
E-Filing in Family Court Matters – 2007  
Post-Trial Motions and Motions for Reconsideration – 2009  
The Good Samaritan Law in the United States – 2010  
The Nuts and Bolts of a Civil Trial – 2011  
Overview of Pennsylvania Election Law – 2012  
The Do's and Don'ts of Technology in the Courtroom – 2013  
Dealing With Self-Represented Litigants – 2013  
Effective Legal Writing – 2014  
Community Resources for Lawyers – 2014  
The Composition of the Jury through History – 2015  
A View From the Bench – Civil and Family (multiple presentations)  
Allegheny, Beaver, Butler Counties (2006 – 2016)  
Judicial Roundtable (2006 – 2016) Beaver County Bench Bar Conference

Understanding Trauma in Dependency Cases (Course Planner) – 2014  
Evidence from the Movies (Course Planner) – 2007

**III. CLASSES TAUGHT TO NON-LEGAL AUDIENCES**

Law Day Keynote Speaker – Magna Carta 2015, The Rule of Law 2014  
Act 53 in Beaver County – Presentations to Chiefs of Police, Magistrates, and  
Town Hall Meeting – 2015  
Trial Court Work in Beaver County – Presentation to Beaver County Citizens Police  
Academy 2014, 2015  
Career Day – High School/Middle School, Annual Presenter  
Mock Trial Judge – High School – Annually, 2006 to present  
“I Signed the Constitution” – Middle School/High School – Annual Presenter  
The Trial of Cardigan Jones – Pre-school/Elementary school program, as requested