

PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

1. State your full name: **Maria Charlene McLaughlin**

Have you ever been known by any other name? If so, please list.
No.

2. Office address (include zip code):

**Philadelphia Family Court
1501 Arch St., Suite 1549
Philadelphia, PA 19102**

Office telephone (include area code):
Office: (215) 686-7330; Fax: (215) 686-7822

Name of law firm, if associated: **N/A**

3. Date and place of birth: **May 27, 1966; Philadelphia, PA**

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

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: **No.**

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

Yes. December 15, 2011. May Term 2010, Case No. 8447. CCP, Philadelphia County.

6. Have you had any military service? **No.**

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? **No.** 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:

Pennsylvania State University (1984-1988), Dean's List, B.S.S. in Public Policy (1988)

Oklahoma City University School of Law (1989)

Delaware Law School - Widener University (1990-1992), Dean's List, Juris Doctor (1992)

I left Oklahoma City University School of Law in 1990 to attend Delaware Law School-Widener University, where I earned my Juris Doctorate.

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 bar, admitted on December 7, 1992

New Jersey bar, admitted on December 22, 1992 (voluntarily resigned upon becoming Judge of Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia)

US District Court for the Eastern District to PA (November 14, 2003)

US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (December 3, 2003)

Supreme Court of the United States of America (March 3, 2008)

9. Describe chronologically your law practice and experience after your graduation from law school, 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 the addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been connected and the nature of your connection with each:

2012 - Present

**Philadelphia Family Court
1501 Arch St., Suite 1549
Philadelphia, PA 19102**

**Court of Common Pleas
of Philadelphia County
Judge**

1992 – 2011	Philadelphia District Attorney's Office 46 S. 11 th St. Philadelphia, PA 19107	Chief Assistant District Attorney (2003 – 2011) Director of Family Justice Center Initiative (2010 - 2011) Assistant District Attorney (1992 – 2003)
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d) Any other relevant particulars:

1991	Superior Court of Pennsylvania The Honorable Vincent A. Cirillo 1 Belmont Ave., Suite 800 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004	Law Clerk (1991)
1988 – 1991	Senate of Pennsylvania 462 Main Capitol Bldg. Harrisburg, PA 17120	Legal Staff (1988 – 1989) Research Staff (1988 –1989)

10. With respect to your practice:

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

I began my legal career in August of 1992 working for the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney assigned to one of the only civil units in the office, the Child Support Enforcement Unit. Over the next 11 years in this position, I successfully prosecuted thousands of cases.

In 2003, the Honorable Lynne Abraham appointed me Chief Assistant District Attorney of that unit, which made me one of the youngest female attorneys in Philadelphia history to ever hold the position. As Chief, I was responsible for the supervision and training of a staff of 18 employees, including attorneys, paralegals, law clerks, secretaries and legal interns. Additionally, it was my job to assign cases and handle all matters regarding personnel. When our office received particularly complex domestic relations cases, I handled the litigation at both the Common Pleas and Appellate Court levels. During my time as Chief, our unit continued in its path of success, annually collecting millions of dollars in child support arrears.

Throughout my years in the District Attorney's Office, I participated in statewide educational programs as a member of the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania. I also taught numerous continuing legal education courses, as well as ethics courses, for the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers.

In addition to my primary role as Chief Assistant District Attorney, I was appointed as Director of the Family Justice Center Initiative in 2010. This appointment required that I travel to New York City to meet with department heads of their juvenile justice centers. Using the information they provided as a basis, I then created a budget and plan for Philadelphia's initiative.

In 2011, I resigned from my position in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office to prepare to run for Judge of Court of Common Pleas. During this time, I briefly worked as an independent contractor, drafting new personnel policies and helping to supervise real estate sales for the Philadelphia Sheriff's Office. I continued this work until I was sworn into office in January 2012.

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

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:

I was sworn in as a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County on January 2, 2012 for a ten year term. I currently serve the Family Court Division and frequently preside over criminal matters that involve underlying charges of contempt of protection from abuse orders.

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:

Child custody, child support, divorce, abuse and criminal cases involving assault, stalking, terroristic threats, etc.

b) The percentage of time you devoted to:

1. Civil: 75%
2. Criminal: 25%
3. Dependency: N/A

c) The percentage of your time devoted to:

1. Jury: N/A
2. Non-jury: 100%
3. Appellate argument: N/A
4. Other: N/A

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

Throughout my five years serving as Judge, I have only been required to issue five opinions. All of those opinions were affirmed after review. They are as follows:

W.W. v. M.S.-W.; No. 1310V7081; affirmed, No. 1044 EDA 2014

J.C. v. J.C.; No. 0C0902208; affirmed, No. 2788 EDA 2013

C.J. v. S.H.; No. 0C1301047; affirmed, No. 1013 EDA 2015, Memorandum Opinion

A.B.M. v. S.A.S.; No. 0C1201493; affirmed, No. 438 EDA 2016

C.C. v. C.C.; No. 0C0700974; affirmed, No. 958 EDA 2012

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:

Superior Court of PA (10%)
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? No. If so, give details, including dates: N/A
18. Are you now an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? No. 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 terms of your service: N/A
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 ordinances? No. If so, give details. Do not include summary traffic offenses: N/A
20. Are you under any ongoing federal, state or local investigation or indictment for possible violation of a criminal statute? No. If so, give particulars: N/A

21. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? **No.** If so, give particulars: **N/A**
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 a 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:

My personal divorce and family court proceedings.

Approximately 23 years ago, I was a plaintiff in a personal injury suit involving an automobile accident. I was also a plaintiff, along with my brother and mother, in an estate matter regarding my deceased father in 2001.

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? **No.** If so, give the particulars: **N/A**
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 to fulfill the term of office? **No.** If so, please explain: **N/A**
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:
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 the bar associations and professional societies and membership on any committees which you believe to be of particular significance (e.g., judicial selection committee, disciplinary committee, grievance committee).

Nicholas A. Cipriani Family Law American Inn of Court:
Member (2012 – Present)
Vice President (2015 – Present)

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas FYI Educational Committee:
Member (2012 – Present)
Co-chair (2014 – Present)

Pennsylvania Bar Association:
Member (2015 – Present)

New Jersey Bar Association:
Member (1992 – 2012)

Philadelphia Bar Association:
Member (1992 – 2012), (2015 - Present)

National Association of Women Judges:
Member (2013 – Present)

The Justinian Law Society of Philadelphia:
Member (2016)

Brehon Law Society (1993 – 2000), (2016 – 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:

“Hot Tips in Support,” Family Law Institute CLE, 2016

“20 Hot Tips in Family Law,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE, 2015

“Support/Paternity,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE, 2015

“Philadelphia VIP Custody Training,” Philadelphia Law Works, 2014

“Dirty Tricks and Domestic Relations,” Bench Bar Program, 2014

“Judicial Panel,” Community College of Philadelphia, 2013

“Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: How to recognize and understand PTSD and best practices for litigation when your client/witness suffers from PTSD,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE, 2013

“Philadelphia County Domestic Relations,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE, 2013

As an attorney, I have appeared on local radio and television shows to discuss various family law issues.

As both a judge and attorney, I have taught at numerous elementary and high schools throughout the Commonwealth about a variety of legal topics.

As a judge, on a weekly basis, I permit law students to observe and learn in my courtroom and, once court has recessed, answer any questions they may have regarding the previous cases and judgments.

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:

**Delaware Law School-Widener University Alumni Board of Directors:
Member (1995 – Present)**

**“Do The Write Thing” National Youth Anti-violence Campaign:
Member (1993 – 2013)**

**Central High School of Philadelphia Home and School Board:
Executive Member (2000 – 2015)**

**Sons and Daughters of Italy, Roxborough Lodge# 2217:
Member (2009 – Present)**

32. List any honor, 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:

2013 Alumna of the Year Award, Delaware Law School-Widener University Alumni Association.

2008 Outstanding Service Award, Delaware Law School-Widener University Alumni Association.

Citation for Recognition of Service, House of Representatives, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (2014).

42nd Annual Person of the Year Award, Order of the Sons and Daughters of Italy, Greater Roxborough Lodge# 2217 (2014).

33. State any 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:

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

I dedicated 25 years of my legal career to serving the public, constantly striving to apply the knowledge and experience I gained along the way for the betterment of the citizens of this Commonwealth and the lives of those around me. I made the choice before graduating law school to one day obtain a position in the District Attorney's Office, where I knew I would be able to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the law and gain invaluable litigation skills. Currently, as a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas, I strive to rule with fairness and empathy, while always following our current legal statutes and maintaining a strict ethical code of conduct that is expected of an elected official and servant of the people.

There are variety of factors that I believe make me well qualified for the position of Superior Court Judge. Serving as Judge within the First Judicial District has offered me extensive practice at efficiently managing voluminous caseloads, and I feel that this experience would benefit me greatly if I were to take on the similarly rigorous schedule of a Superior Court Judge. Furthermore, I have always maintained a good rapport with my fellow Judges, which I know becomes especially important when ruling amongst a panel of my colleagues. I have invaluable experience in hearing arguments, presiding over a wide variety of complex cases, and drafting opinions, all of which are integral aspects of the work of a Superior Court Judge.

In order to be successful as a Superior Court Judge, I know that one must first possess an undying respect and understanding of the law, a collegial disposition, an impeccable worth ethic, and an unwavering compassion for all people. As both an attorney and a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas, I feel that I have worked hard to consistently demonstrate such qualities and likewise build upon them so that I may become a better public official. My overall record of only five appealed decisions without being overturned is further evidence of my sincere dedication to promoting fairness and legality within our judicial system. In the end, as a Superior Court Judge, I only wish to continue fulfilling my lifelong passion for serving my community by rendering fair and just decisions that will ultimately have an impact on a statewide level.

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.

Honorable Maria McLaughlin

Type or print name

Maria McLaughlin

Signature

11/23/16
Date