ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

As a candidate for the Pennsylvania Appellate Courts, I hereby acknowledge and authorize the procedures of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Commission, including the following:

1. The Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Commission will make available to the public the Questionnaire and my responses to it, except for the questions and responses which are acknowledged to be confidential, which information shall remain available only to the Commission and an investigative panel.

2. The rating assigned to me by the Commission will be publicly announced and will be accompanied by an explanation of reasons for the rating.

3. Should I receive a *Not Recommended* rating, the Commission will endeavor to notify me prior to a public announcement. If I withdraw from the race, the unfavorable recommendation will not be announced.

4. I hereby authorize the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board, the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners to transmit my entire file and record, including confidential information contained therein, to the Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Commission. I hereby specifically waive any confidentiality rights I may have in those records.

5. I hereby authorize the Judicial Conduct Board, the Disciplinary Board, and the Board of Law Examiners, or the equivalent, in any jurisdiction where I have practiced, been admitted to practice or have applied to either take a bar examination or for admission to the bar to transmit my entire file and record, including confidential information contained therein, to the Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Commission. I hereby specifically waive any confidentiality rights I may have in those records.

6. The Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Commission may change, during the course of my campaign for office, the original rating assigned to me for cause. Cause shall include a violation of the Judicial Campaign Advertising Guidelines. I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Guidelines.

Carolyn Nichols
Type or print name

12/23/2020
Signature

/s/ Carolyn Nichols
SIGNATURE
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

1. State your full name:
   Carolyn H. Nichols

   Have you ever been known by any other name? If so, please list.
   None

2. Office address (include zip code):
   Two Bala Plaza, Suite 520
   Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

   Office telephone (include area code): (610) 617-1090

   Name of law firm, if associated: None

3. Date and place of birth: 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: Single

   b) Have you been divorced? If so, state the date, the number of the case and the court: Not Applicable

6. Have you had any military service? Not Applicable If so,
   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: Not Applicable

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:

   Eastern University, St. Davids, PA, MBA, 2000 – 2002
   Temple University, Phila, PA, LLM, Trial Advocacy, 1992 -1994
   Temple University, Phila., PA, Juris Doctor, 1981- 1985
   Temple University, Phila., PA, BFA, 1973-1978
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.

**PA, admitted in November, 1990**

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:

   **Hon. Doris Pechkurow, Court of Common Pleas, Family Court Div, Philadelphia County, 1997**

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

   At several points during my legal career, I maintained a solo civil practice.

   1996 – 1999; Law Offices of Carolyn H. Nichols, Atlantic Building, 260 S. Broad St, 16th fl, Philadelphia, PA 19104; During this time, my solo practice focused on employment law, along with transactional, and public finance projects. I represented employees pursuing claims for wrongful termination, sexual harassment, and discrimination under local, state and federal laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VII”), the Family and Medical Leave Act (“FMLA”), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (“ADEA”), the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), the PA Human Relations Act (“PHRA”), and the Philadelphia Fair Practices Ordinance (“PFPO”).

   In addition, I counseled employees regarding employment contract negotiation, non-competition agreements, and severance packages, and advised business owners concerning the opening and operation of small businesses in the city of Philadelphia. Additionally, I represented public housing tenants in Philadelphia Housing Authority (“PHA”) Grievance Procedure Hearings, and counseled non-profits, including religious organizations concerning non-profit law matters, including 501c(3) filings.

   In 1997, in addition to my law practice, I served as law clerk for Hon. Doris Pechkurow, Family Court Division, and assisted her in the determination of child custody and support cases, and worked closely with attorneys, and self-represented litigants. On a part-time basis, I served as Senior Reader for the PA Board of Bar Examiners for the PA Supreme Court. I had the opportunity to serve as co-counsel for the underwriters with Ballard Spahr in the $60M tax-exempt bond issue that financed the purchase of One Parkway Building (1515 Arch St) for the City.
2008 – 2011; Law Offices of Carolyn H. Nichols, 3901 Market St #1935, Philadelphia, PA 19104. During this period, my solo civil practice emphasized employment law, sexual harassment, civil rights litigation, and diversity consulting services to assist governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses, with programmatic development and the evaluation of initiatives and diversity methodology.

Projects included contracting with Econsult, Milligan & Co, and the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition (“GPUAC”) to recommend inclusion, and wealth building strategies for minority, women, and disabled owned businesses as part of the Delaware River Water Front Master Plan developed by the City of Philadelphia.

I was engaged in joint venture defense with Duane Morris to defend a public agency, in response to federal investigation, including legal research, working with investigators, auditors, and senior agency staff to prepare hard copy and electronic production, and to complete the review of close to one million emails.

Additionally, I served as co-counsel with Litvin Zeiger in the Huntingdon Valley pool discrimination litigation, which alleged African American and Latino children were refused access to the Club’s pool. My role was to manage the discrimination claim before the PA Human Relations Commission, as well as media contact, including press conferences.

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:

d) Any other relevant particulars:

1990 – 1994; City of Philadelphia Law Dept, 1101 Market St, 9th fl, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Assistant City Solicitor. I defended City employees and agencies in state and federal courts, concerning employment, civil rights, and torts claims litigation, including administrative discrimination claims, Title VII litigation, and sexual harassment. In addition, I argued and briefed several appeals to the Commonwealth Court. My duties included the presentation of anti-harassment workshops and workplace training for City employees.

1994 – 1995; City Councilwoman, Augusta Clark (dec), City Hall, 5th fl, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Legislative Assistant. I prepared councilmanic legislation, and supported activities encompassing broad spectrum of issues, notably, gun violence - Guns No More in ’94, divestment in South Africa, and public education in that Ms. Clark was Chair of City Council’s Education Committee.

1995 -1996; Philadelphia Housing Development Corp (“PHDC”), 1234 Market St, 10th fl, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Assistant Legal Counsel. I provided legal counsel and assistance for the agency’s housing rehabilitation projects, and property lease programs.

Key tax-exempt bond issues included; 8th and Chestnut Street parcels – issued $47M in municipal bonds in 1999 to fund the construction of 988-space parking facility that was part of Disney Quest project. The project was abandoned and the outstanding bonds were defeased. Rittenhouse Project – Issued $65M in municipal bonds in 1999 to finance new construction, renovation and improvements. The project was abandoned and the outstanding bonds were defeased.

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

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

Before, being elected as a judge in 2011, I practiced law for over 20 years, in local government, and as a solo practitioner in the private sector. My private practice often involved completing projects in a “gig” economy context (independent contracting for short term projects), in addition to experience in diverse careers which enhanced the transferability of my legal training and expertise.

After graduating from law school, in 1985, I pursued non-traditional opportunity with an independent music publishing company, Avatar Music Publishing (now, Avatar Records), managing the administration of music publishing rights, including copywriting, licensing for uses of songs, and registration of songs with ASCAP, BMI, or SESAC.

In 1989, I returned to Philadelphia, and began practicing law in 1991, as an Assistant City Solicitor, representing the City, and City officials in civil litigation, in state and federal courts. Additionally, I litigated hundreds of discrimination claims on behalf of the City, before state, and federal courts, the PA, and Philadelphia Human Relations Commissions, and the EEOC. In, 1992, I was appointed as a federal and state court arbitrator, to hear civil cases. In addition, I argued appeals concerning City employment cases before the Commonwealth Court.

From, 1994–1995, I served as Legislative Assistant for former Philadelphia Councilwoman Augusta Clark (dec.), and researched legislative issues, and worked with Councilmanic and Administration staff, and relevant publics and constituencies. 1995 – 1996, I provided legal support for agency staff for the
development of rehabilitation of housing projects, and property lease programs as Assistant Legal Counsel at PHDC.

In 1996, I opened my civil solo practice, emphasizing the practice areas of employment law litigation, transactional and public finance, and worked on projects, including the tax-exempt bond issue for the City's purchase of One Parkway Building, as co-counsel with Ballard Spahr. In addition to my private practice, in 1997, I served as law clerk for Judge Pechkurow.

Subsequently, in 1998, I marketed insurance products for AXA Equitable as Series 6, and 63, Registered Representative. Later that year, briefly, I served as Human Resources Director for Crime Prevention Association of Philadelphia (now, Caring People’s Alliance), managing human resources for non-profit agency, providing community based programs for children and families.

In 1999, I was hired as Acting General Counsel at the Philadelphia Parking Authority, and was subsequently promoted to General Counsel, responsible for the management of litigation, workers compensation, and transactional matters, in addition to the compliance of tax exempt bond issues. I advised the Board and senior management, and reviewed, and prepared agency policies, in addition to supervising professional and administrative staff of five, with about 20 law firms, engaged as outside counsel.

In 2005, the Mayor’s Office hired me for the position of Deputy Secretary of External Affairs and I assisted with the management of the City’s federal lobbying efforts, and helped secure $10M in earmark appropriations for various City programs.

In 2006, I began my tenure as Deputy Finance Director, and Director of Minority Business Enterprise Council (“MBEC”), (now, Office of Economic Opportunity). My duties included, assisting the City Finance Director with senior level financial management, planning, and operations. My duties included the development of financial and analytical capabilities and current and emerging technologies to empower minority, women, and disabled owned business to participate in City contracts, and worked closely with the City Law Department to achieve these objectives. I eliminated backlog of over 950 certification applications, and instituted 90 day turnaround, from one year wait.

Additionally, I researched best practices, developed management oversight, accountability, and metrics, and benchmarks, and participated in legislative hearings, and testified before City Council, on multiple occasions, and prepared annual reports.

In 2008, I reopened my solo civil practice, focusing on employment and civil rights litigation, including sexual harassment/misconduct, transactional and public finance, and diversity services. I completed multiple projects, including the joint venture defense of a public agency with Duane Morris in response to
federal investigation, and creating inclusion and wealth building strategies for diverse businesses for the City of Philadelphia’s River Water Front Master Plan.

In 2010, I was engaged as co-counsel with Levin Zeiger concerning the Huntingdon Valley Club pool racial discrimination case, which received international attention. The case alleged the Club’s denial of access to its pool for African American and Latino children. My involvement in the case was during the initial stages, as part of the PA Human Relations Commission administrative process, and press conferences and media interviews. The matter proceeded to litigation, and was resolved after I was elected to the Common Pleas Court Bench.

11. What judicial office do you now hold? State whether you have been appointed or and non-jury trial selected 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:

In November, 2017 I was elected, and currently serve on the Superior Court, an intermediate appellate court for a ten-year term. I conduct the appellate review of criminal, civil, family and orphans court cases, and write opinions, and hear oral arguments in three-judge, and En Banc panels.

Previously, I was elected to the Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial District, Philadelphia County, in 2011, for a ten-year term. I served in the Criminal Trial Division and conducted jury and non-jury trials, and handled motions and guilty pleas.

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:

During my tenure in Common Pleas Court I presided in criminal cases, involving felonies, and misdemeanors, including drugs, guns, robbery, home invasions, car jackings, shootings, assaults, domestic violence, and sex crimes, DUI, and appeals from Municipal Court, violations of probation/parole and PCRA matters (Post-Conviction Relief Act). I conducted jury and bench trials, decided motions, PCRA petitions and other matters in a high volume court environment.

Currently in Superior Court, I conduct the appellate review of appeals in criminal, civil, family, and orphans court cases and I hear oral arguments in three-judge and En Banc panels in addition to writing opinions and deciding motions. Superior Court receives approximately 8,000 appeals annually, in addition to about 18,000 motions.
b) The percentage of your time devoted to:

1. Civil: 30%

2. Criminal: 60%

3. Other: 10%

c) The percentage of your time devoted to:

1. Jury: 0%

2. Non-jury: 0%

3. Appellate argument: 100%

4. Other:

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

Attached are five significant opinions:

(Nichols, J. concurring)


Commonwealth v. Howard, No. 1281 WDA 2018, 2019 WL 6138949 at *4
dissenting), appeal granted, 223 A.3d 673 (Pa. 2020)

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:

     As an Assistant City Solicitor, I litigated hundreds of discrimination
claims, on behalf of the City, before the PA and Philadelphia Human
Relations Commissions, and the EEOC. In addition, I practiced before
these agencies as a solo practitioner.
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 briefed and argued several cases before the Commonwealth Court, as an Assistant City Solicitor. In my solo civil practice, I appeared before the Court of Common Pleas, and Commonwealth Court, on behalf of community groups pursuing appeals of the PA Liquor Control Board’s granting of the transfer of liquor licenses. In addition, I represented clients in nomination petition challenges before the Commonwealth Court.

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:

Held the elected position of Committeeperson, Third Ward, 2009 – 2011
Held appointed positions of Deputy Secretary of External Affairs, Mayor’s Office, 2005 – 2006, and
Deputy Finance Director/MBEC Director, 2006 - 2008

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:

Deputy Secretary of External Affairs, Mayor’s Office, City of Philadelphia, 2005 – 2006, Room 205, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19107. I managed the City’s federal issues, including appropriations and legislative advocacy, and helped secure $10M in federal earmark appropriations for various City programs including:
Philadelphia Airport projects – resurfacing and extension of runways and airport terminal building modifications to existing terminal building structures to provide screening of outbound baggage with explosive detection devices.
Green City Strategy – improvements to 500 parcels or 700th sq feet around the city.
Youth Violence Reduction Partnership and Adolescent Violence Reduction Project - targeting violence prevention programs for youth aged 10 to 15.
Law Enforcement Technology Enhancements - to upgrade and enhance identification technology including fingerprinting, crime maps, and prints of crime scenes.

Deputy Finance Director, MBEC Director (Minority Business Enterprise Council), 2006 – 2008, City of Philadelphia, MSB, 1401 JFK Blvd, 16th fl, Philadelphia, PA 19107. I was responsible for implementing anti-
discrimination policies in City procurement and contract management. My role was to promote the economic development of minority, women and disabled owned businesses. I partnered with elected officials, department heads, and senior Administration officials to develop and implement policy initiatives and legislation. In addition, I served as key contact for multiple publics, including private sector and governmental organizations. I provided oversight for media, public relations, and community outreach, and participated in legislative hearings, press conferences, and related activities. Additionally, I created workshops to assist vendors in navigating the City’s procurement process. – resulted in 40% increase of MWDBE vendors awarded contracts in 2007.

Karr Barth Associates, AXA Advisors LLC, 40 Monument Rd, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. Marketed insurance products and mutual funds as a Registered Representative, Series 6, and 63, for the AXA Equitable network in 1998.

Human Resources Director for Crime Prevention Association (now, Caring Peoples Alliance), 8 Penn Center, 1628 JFK Boulevard, Suite 800, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Managed human resources office for non-profit agency providing community based programs for children and families, briefly during 1998.


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: **No**

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:

Attached are examples of judicial opinions, involving my significant input which also includes the opinions listed above:

**In the Int. of D.G., a minor**, 2020 PA Super. 269, 2020 WL 6790746 (Nov. 19, 2020)


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).

**Commissioner, Pa Commission on Crime and Delinquency; Member, Adult Racial and Ethnic Disparity Subcommittee**
**Member, Pa Interbranch Commission for Gender Racial and Ethnic Fairness Criminal Justice Subcommittee**
**Member, Judicial Council-NBA, Clifford Scott Green Chapter**
**Member, Pa Bar Association; and Minority Bar Committee**
**Member, Philadelphia Bar Association; and Diversity Advisory Panel**
Montgomery County Bar Association, and Diversity Committee
Member, First Judicial District Criminal Law Inn of Court 2012-2013
Participant, Philadelphia Bar Association Advancing Civics Education
(“ACE”) Program
Member, International Association of Women Judges

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 CLE/CJE courses including:

- Pa Bar Association YLD “Becoming: Strategies for Success for Diversity
  Attorneys and Their Allies Part I” 12/10/20
- PBI, “Virtual Advocacy in Appellate Courts” 08/20/20
- City of Philadelphia Law Dept CLE: Life in the Big City XXVI - Exploring
  Implicit Bias, “You Don’t Look Like a Lawyer” 07/31/20
- Pa Defense Counsel Women’s Initiative, “Judges in the Courtroom –
  Developing Leadership Skills” 03/09/20
- PCSTJ Mid Annual Meeting, “SORNA Update” 02/26/20
- Barristers Association of Philadelphia, “So You Want to Be a Judge” 02/12/20
- Pennsylvanians For Modern Courts, “The Current State of Pennsylvania Law
  on Judicial Recusal” 11/08/19
- Chancellor’s Forum: “Personal Style and Professional Image” 12/02/2019
- Pa Supreme Court Commission on Judicial Independence and the University
  of Pittsburgh School of Law virtual panel discussion on the role of the
  courts. 09/23/19
- Jenkins Law Library, “Straight Out of Superior Court: A Judge’s Perspective”
  08/07/19
- PCSTJ Summer Annual Meeting, “Sentencing and Time Credit Issues”
  07/25/19
- Pa Defense Inst, “Women and Diversity: Perspectives from the Bench”
  07/11/19
- PBI Criminal Law Symposium, “Perspectives from Superior Court” 06/07/18
  and 06/06/19
Cape Institute “Sex in All the Wrong Places: Why People Get in Trouble with Sex.” 2010.


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:

Member, Philadelphia Education Fund, First Education Compact
Member, New Core
Member, Citizens Diplomacy International of Philadelphia
Member, UN Association, Philadelphia Chapter, 2013 - 2016
Board of Governors, Recording Academy, Philadelphia Chapter 2010-2012
Member, NAACP

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.

Rutgers Law School Black Law Students Association’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Champion of Social Justice and Equality Award, 2019.

NBA/Judicial Council/Clifford Scott Green Chapter’s Pinnacle Award for service to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, 2018

Inaugural recipient of the Judge Carolyn H. Nichols Drum Major for Justice Award, instituted by State Representative Margo Davidson, 2018

City of Philadelphia’s Office of Economic Opportunity’s Guardian of Economic Inclusion Award. 2014

Redeemer Tabernacle Outstanding Woman Award. 2014

Overbrook High School Hall of Fame. 2012

Philadelphia Tribune Leadership Award – Most Influential African Americans. 2007, 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.

I support activities promoting positive reentry to prevent recidivism and to stop the school to prison pipeline. Recently, I participated in
community relations initiatives of the Southwest Police Division in Philadelphia, including *Turn A New Corner*, to assist returning citizens gain employment, and *Blades, Fades and Engage*, a town hall style dialogue in neighborhood barber shops with the local community and law enforcement. In 2019, I co-founded the Southwest Division Youth Advisory Committee to facilitate positive activities for youth to move their lives forward with confidence and purpose. In 2020, during the pandemic, I have participated in food and clothing distributions, and neighborhood clean-up activities with grassroots organizations including *Unity in the Community* and *Ahari*.

In addition, I actively promote inclusion, intercultural, and interfaith dialogue, with diverse groups, including, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Majidullah, and Al Aqsa Islamic Society. In 2008, cofounded networking and dialogue group with African American and Jewish professional women with the American Jewish Committee.

In 2014, I participated in cultural exchange in Morocco with Moroccan judges, as part of the Judicial Council, a national group of African American judges, to discuss constitutional and judicial reform in the Moroccan justice system. I traveled to Tunisia, in 2015, to participate in judicial conference hosted by the International Association of Women Judges to discuss constitutional reforms to the Tunisian legal system, and other Arab countries.

As a member of New Core, a multiracial, interfaith group, I participate in events that generate conversations on race and ethnicity, in order to promote respect for diverse racial and ethnic histories, struggles, and experiences.

Working toward positive solutions with community partners to stop the senseless violence in our streets is essential to my civic engagement as a judge. I have participated and spoken at events including *Hands Across Philadelphia* March and Rally, organized by the local NAACP, Mothers in Charge, iHeart Radio, and Browns Shop Rite, in response to the concerns of city residents over the homicide deaths of urban youth, and the Mural Arts annual program for a local basketball court, honoring a 15-year-old homicide victim.

I am active in mentoring and peacebuilding programs to disrupt the school to prison pipeline, and to help youth to stay out of the criminal justice system. My activities include involvement with many community groups, and governmental agencies, including the Philadelphia School District Office of Strategic Partnerships, and the Office of Family and Community Engagement (“FACE”), in addition to the Philadelphia Education Fund, Education First Compact, a multi-disciplinary group of educators, and interested persons, committed to improving the quality of public education in Philadelphia schools.
I have mentored school students who have visited my court to learn about the criminal justice system first-hand, to understand the importance of making better choices to stay out of the system and to lead meaningful lives.

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 am qualified, and well suited to become a Supreme Court Justice based on my demonstrated commitment to the Rule of Law, integrity, hard work, and excellence in public service to ensure that equal justice for all is a reality, and not merely an ideal. My career and life experiences have prepared me to take on the Court’s appellate review of cases, primarily heard on a discretionary basis, only death sentence cases are afforded direct appellate review. The Supreme Court receives about 3,000 petitions for allowance of appeals annually, and the Court grants between 200 to 300 of these petitions based on its determination that an appeal concerns constitutional issues with wide-spread impact on individuals and cases in the state. Additionally, the Supreme Court as the highest court in the Unified Judicial System has administrative and supervisory roles concerning judges, attorneys, and court operations and has boards, commissions, and committees that establish court rules, and disciplinary rules and enforcement.

Procedural justice represents my core belief that people come to the court system seeking justice and deserve to be treated with humanity and respect. As an impartial and independent judge, my role is to render decisions applying the law with transparency to ensure fairness and equality and to allow people the opportunity to be heard, whether in a courtroom, or in the appellate process at oral argument, or by submissions on briefs.

In my career, I have been actively involved in promoting fairness and inclusion, and equity. Further, I understand the importance of cultural competency and having respect for diverse communities. As a judge, respect for diverse communities is essential because people are coming to court with varied backgrounds, and life experiences, and should be treated with humanity and dignity. Since becoming a jurist, I have maintained active involvement in various communities, and am committed to ensuring that implicit and explicit bias have no place in our court system.
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.

Carolyn Nichols
Type or print name

/s/ Carolyn Nichols
Signature

12/23/2020
Date