

## **Common Cause/NY's Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**

### **Candidates for Kings County Countywide Civil Court Judge – Sept. 2017**

**Your name**

Connie Mallafre Melendez

**Why do you want to be a judge?**

I want to be a judge to continue my work in public service. As a judge assigned to Family Court, I aim to continue the work I started as a social worker and make a positive impact in people's lives. As a judge assigned to Criminal Court, I can address issues of social injustices within the confines of the law. In Civil Court, where cases are predominantly resolved in monetary damages, my abilities at issue resolution and my trial experience will allow me to well serve the many peoples of Brooklyn. The years I have spent as a Law Clerk have honed my analytical skills and proven my ability to make just and fair determinations. As a judge, service to the public is more pronounced and has a deeper impact. I am a compassionate and fair attorney who will make an excellent jurist.

**How does your professional and personal life experience qualify you to be a judge?**

Before becoming a lawyer I was a social worker helping victims of domestic violence and children who were physically and sexually abused. That work inspired me to become a lawyer to continue to assist those who cannot help themselves. I graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1986 and litigated for many years with the New York City Law Department. In the last eight years I have been working for a Kings County Supreme Court Judge as a Law Clerk. As a Law Clerk, I work to resolve conflicts between those coming to court. In order to do so fairly, I allow all sides the opportunity to be heard. Just as importantly, I listen, treat everyone with respect and dignity, and work very hard at reaching a just resolution. These skills and personal qualities coupled with my legal experience make me a very qualified candidate for civil court judge.

**What documentation do you think someone suing on credit card debt should have to produce?**

Documentation sufficient to prove one's case should be produced at trial, and that which complies with the rules of evidence should be admitted into evidence.

**What criteria would you use in setting bail?**

The Criminal Procedure Law governs the setting of bail. A judge should consider the totality of a given situation in accordance to the CPL in making a determination.

**If you were assigned to family court, what would you rely on to determine the best interest of a child?**

The best interest of a child is to be determined by the totality of the circumstances.

**I acknowledge that I have prepared these answers and approve them as accurate.**

Yes.