

Common Cause/NY's Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

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

Your name

Ellen E. Edwards

Why do you want to be a judge?

The court system where the people of Brooklyn are treated with dignity and respect within the judicial system is the basis of my running for Civil Court judge. Judges must be independent in their thinking and uninfluenced by political pressures . After 28 years of practicing law and serving the diversity that represents Brooklyn, I feel compelled to serve at a higher level to assure justice and fairness to all who come before me .

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

I have experience as a mediator, referee and litigator who has practiced in every court: Criminal, Civil, Small Claims, Supreme, Surrogates, Family, Matrimonial, Court of Appeals, Appellate Division, Appellate Term. I am a life long resident of Brooklyn, have traveled extensively and am sensitive to cultural differences and norms. This along with my faith, even temperment and common sense will be a benefit to litigants and the court.

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

The initial credit card agreement, statements which show the purchases made, and the payments made. In addition, if the debt has been sold, it is important that the creditor establish its right to collect the debt.

What criteria would you use in setting bail?

The Criminal Procedure Law guides this decision. Bail is to assure the defendant will be at required court appearances. It should not be used in a punitive manner, as pretrial punishment or preventative detention: The mental condition, reputation, character and habits of the accused; family and community ties, length of residences the community, prior record, record of flight, weight of evidence, sentence that may be imposed upon conviction and the probability of conviction .

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

The attorney for the child will produce a report, depending upon the age, an in camera interview with the child, a review of the relationship of the child with the other family members, school environment. The paramount concern is to provide the child with a healthy environment where education and personal growth into a productive human being is possible.

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

This is correct.