

**BUCKS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MERIT SELECTION OF JUDGES COMMITTEE
Candidate Questionnaire**

Election Date: May, 2009 primary; November, 2009 general election

Notice: A candidate who chooses not to answer any question in whole or in part is requested to set forth the reason(s) for not answering so as to minimize or eliminate any adverse inferences that may otherwise be drawn.

I. PERSONAL DATA

1. Name and Address. State your full name, home address and any other name by which you have been known.

**Carol A. Shelly (Carol Shelly Ebert)
114 Saddle Drive
Furlong, Pa. 18925**

2. Age.

49

3. Business Activities.

- (a) In the past ten years, have you been engaged in any occupation, business or profession, other than the practice of law or holding of judicial or other public office? If yes, state details, including name, address, description of activity and dates.

None.

- (b) Are you currently an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise?

Yes.

- (1) If yes, state the 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?

Mellon Webster & Shelly, law firm. Secretary/Vice President

- (2) Is it your intention to resign such positions and withdraw from any participation in the management of any such enterprise if you become a judge? If no, state reasons.

Yes

II. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND PUBLICATIONS

4. Education. State each trade school, college and/or law school attended, including the dates of attendance and the date and type of degree awarded.

Gettysburg College, 1977-1981; Bachelor of Arts Degree, Political Science

Widener University, 1982-1986; Juris Doctor Degree (4 years, as I attended law school full time at night and worked full time during the day).

5. Teaching. Have you taught any law related courses after your admission to practice? If yes, state the name and address of the institution and the name and substance of the course taught and the date when it was taught.

I have taught the following continuing legal education classes for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute:

**Four County Civil Practice, Bucks (2008)
Fundamentals of Civil Practice & Procedure (2008)
Four County Civil Practice, Bucks (2005)
Fundamentals of Civil Practice & Procedure (2003)
Four County Civil Practice, Bucks (2003)
28th Annual Essentials of Pennsylvania Practice (2002)
Fundamentals of PA Civil Practice & Procedure (2001)
Four County Civil Practice, Bucks (2000)
Fundamentals of PA Civil Practice & Procedure (1999)
DUI (1998)
Taking & Defending Depositions (1998)
Fundamentals of PA Civil Practice & Procedure (1996)
Best of CLE Videos (1996)
DUI (1996)
DUI (1992)
6th Criminal Law Symposium (1989)**

In addition, I have taught the following continuing legal education classes for the Bucks County Bar Association:

**The Legislature & The Law
UM/UIM Cases – How To Try Them, How To Win Them
9/8/2000 – Use of Medical Evidence In Civil Cases: Pre-Trial
9/8/2000 – Use of Medical Witnesses: Trial & Evidence
11/2/2000 – Just Say No!**

6. Publications. Are there any publications or articles of which you are the author or a contributing author? If yes, state the name and date of the publication or article and the publisher. Include any CLE publications and seminars.

I have co-authored course materials for the following CLE Courses for the Pennsylvania Bar Association and Bucks County Bar Association:

**Four County Civil Practice, Bucks
Fundamentals of Civil Practice & Procedure
DUI
UM/UIM Cases – How To Try Them, How To Win Them
Use of Medical Evidence In Civil Cases: Pre-Trial**

7. Honors. State any honors, prizes or 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. Include any lectures delivered or symposia in which you have participated in the past five years.

AV Peer Review rating, Martindale-Hubbell

Pennsylvania "Super Lawyer" 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009

Instructor, Peoples Law School, Bucks County Community College

Lecturer, various high schools throughout Bucks County

Invited lecturer, Holy Family College, 2003

III. LEGAL EXPERIENCE

8. Current Professional Occupation.

- (a) State the name and address of your principal office.

**Mellon Webster & Shelly
87 N. Broad St.
Doylestown, Pa. 18901**

- (b) Describe your present professional position.

firm
 sole practitioner
 partner or shareholder
 associate

- _____ public defender
- _____ district attorney
- _____ other (describe)

(c) How long have you practiced law in Pennsylvania?
 23 years

9. Courts.

(a) State all the courts in which you have been admitted to practice, including dates of admission.

Supreme Court of the United States, 2005

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 1986

New Jersey, *pro hac vice*, multiple times for individual cases

South Carolina, *pro hac vice*, multiple times for individual cases

Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1993

Third Circuit Court of Appeals, 1994

Middle District of Pennsylvania, 2005

In addition, I practice in the following counties in Pennsylvania on a regular basis:

- Bucks
- Montgomery
- Delaware
- Chester
- Philadelphia
- Lehigh
- Northampton
- Lycoming

(b) Have you ever been disciplined by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Disciplinary Board or a disciplinary agency in any other jurisdiction? If so, please explain the circumstances.

No.

10. Employment History. State chronologically your legal experience after graduation from law school, including:
- (a) whether you served as clerk to a judge and, if yes, the name of the judge and the court and the date of your clerkship;
- No
- (b) whether you practiced alone, and, if yes, the addresses and dates of your solo practice;
- No
- (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;
- Bucks County Public Defender's Office, 1986-1990, Assistant Public Defender**
- Mellon Webster & Mellon, Associate Attorney, 1990 to 2000**
- Mellon Webster & Shelly, Shareholder, 2000 to 2009**
- (d) any other relevant information.

As a public defender, I handled virtually every type of criminal case from shoplifting cases to capital murder. I handled a capital murder case in which DNA evidence was used for the first time in Bucks County. I successfully defended a battered woman, utilizing the "battered woman's syndrome" for the first time in Bucks County. I represented children as a court appointed attorney in custody trials and dependency hearings, when those children had been victimized either physically or sexually by their parents. I tried numerous criminal cases to jury verdict.

11. Areas of Practice.

- (a) What has been the general character of your practice?

My current practice is a plaintiff's personal injury practice, focusing on any type of civil litigation matter, including motor vehicle accidents, professional liability actions, real estate disputes and contractual disputes. I have also handled some defense litigation matters. I have tried all types of civil cases to jury verdict, arbitration award as well as non-jury trials to verdict. I handle catastrophic

injury cases including wrongful death cases, tractor trailer accidents, brain injury cases, birth injury cases. I have tried dozens of civil cases to verdict. I have been appointed as a neutral arbitrator by the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, as well as selected as both a neutral and plaintiff's arbitrator by attorneys.

(b) State by percentage the approximate amount of time you spend in your practice in the following areas:

_____ Business	_____ Criminal
_____ Domestic	_____ Estates
<u>100%</u> Civil Litigation	_____ Real Estate
_____ Municipal	_____ Other (specify)

12. Litigation Experience. With respect to the past five years:

(a) How often have you appeared in a court proceeding?

I am in court on a regular basis, and have been so during my entire career. I have handled dozens of hearings, depositions, arbitrations, jury trials, motions and waiver trials during the last five years.

(b) What percentage of your appearance in court was in:

<u>5%</u> federal courts
<u>95%</u> state courts of record
_____ administrative hearings.

(c) What percentage of your litigation was:

100% civil _____ criminal.

(d) What percentage of the cases in 12(a) above were:

<u>80%</u> jury	<u>5%</u> non jury
<u>15%</u> arbitration	_____ administrative hearings.

(e) If part of your practice has been before appellate courts in the past five years, identify the appellate courts before which you have practiced.

I argued before the Commonwealth Court in the last 5 years. Over my 21 years as a lawyer, I have argued before the Superior Court, Supreme Court and Commonwealth Courts of Pennsylvania.

13. Judicial or Public Office Experience.

- (a) Have you ever held judicial office? If yes, give dates and details, including the courts involved, whether elected or appointed, periods of service and a description of the jurisdiction of each of such courts with any limitations upon its jurisdiction.

No.

- (b) Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If yes, give details, including the office involved, whether elected or appointed, and the length of your service, giving dates.

Republican Committeeperson, 2004-2009.

14. Other Relevant Information. Please provide any other information such as military experience, membership in professional organizations or community involvement which you would like the committee to consider.

In 2005 I was appointed by Chief Judge Giles as a member of the Committee to Select a Federal Magistrate

I am a member of the following professional organizations:

- **Bucks County Bar Association**
 - ❖ **President, 2004**
 - ❖ **Vice-President/President-Elect, 2003**
 - ❖ **Board of Directors, 1998-2000**
 - ❖ **Chair, Civil Litigation Section, 2000-2003**
 - ❖ **Chair, Women Lawyer's Division, 2003-2004**
 - ❖ **Member, Medical/Legal Committee**
 - ❖ **Chair, MCLE Committee**
 - ❖ **Bench Bar Conference Committee, Chair**
 - ❖ **Chair, Merit Selection Committee**
 - ❖ **In addition, I have been an active member of numerous committees throughout my 17 year membership of the BCBA.**

- **Pennsylvania Bar Association**
 - ❖ **Member, House of Delegates**
 - ❖ **Member, Legislative Relations Task Force**
 - ❖ **Member, Lawyer Advertising Task Force**
 - ❖ **Member, Women in the Profession**
 - ❖ **Member, Health Care Law Committee**
 - ❖ **Member, Judicial Administration Committee**

- **Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association**

❖ **Member, Board of Governors, 2002-2004**

- **Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association**
- **Former member, Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers**
- **Former member, Board of Directors, Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers**

I have been involved in the following community organizations:

- **A Woman's Place**
 - ❖ **Member, Board of Directors, 1992-1994**
 - ❖ **President, Board of Directors, 1994-1995**
- **Family Service Association of Bucks County, Board of Directors (currently)**
- **Doylestown Township Parks and Recreation Board (2004)**
- **Run for the Hill of It, Volunteer**
- **Charitable Foundation of the Bucks County Bar Association, Board Member (currently Vice President)**
- **I have volunteered as a team mom for various sporting teams**
- **Member, Bucks County Choral Society**
- **Member, Philadelphia Singers Chorale**
- **Co-President, Lenape Football Parents Association**

IV. CHARACTER INVESTIGATION

15. Criminal Convictions. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony offense in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or any other jurisdiction? If yes, state the details.

No.

16. Authorizations. I agree to authorize, as indicated below, the Bucks County Bar Association Merit Selection of Judges Committee to solicit disciplinary and/or conviction information about me from the entities stated below and agree to execute the authorizations attached hereto authorizing the entities, as indicated below, to release all information to said Committee.

<u>Entities</u>	<u>Granted</u>	<u>Denied</u>
(1) Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court	<u>X</u> ___	___

