

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

Election Date: 5/17/11

Completed questionnaire must be returned to the BCBA Merit Selection Committee on or before 3/25/11

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.

**James M. McMaster
6001 Bensalem Blvd.
Bensalem, PA 19020**

2. Age.
57

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.

**May 1983 – November 2010
Smith & McMaster P.C.
Newtown, PA
General Practice Law Firm**

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

No

- (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?

N/A

- (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.

N/A

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.
Penn State : Sept. 1971 - Aug. 1974 BA- Pre Law
Penn State : Sept. 1976 - Sept. 1977 Graduate Courses in Public Admin.
Rutgers Law School Camden : Sept. 1974 - May 1977 Juris Doctor
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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

HONORS

Silver Key Award - ABA law Student Division 1979
Alumni Certificate of Excellence - Archbishop Wood High School 2001

LECTURES / SEMINARS

Speaker - Bucks County Bar Association
Seminar on Protection from Abuse 2011

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

8. Current Professional Occupation.

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

**30 East Court Street
Doylestown, PA 18901**

(b) Describe your present professional position.

- firm
- sole practitioner
- partner or shareholder
- associate
- public defender
- district attorney
- other (describe) **Judge - Court of Common Pleas**

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

33+ years

9. Courts.

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

PA Supreme	1977	USDC-NJ	1977
USDC-EDPA	1978	US Supreme	1984
US Court of Appeals	1991		

(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;

Associate : Thomas E. Timby & Associates (later Timby & Dillon)

Partner: Smith & McMaster, P.C. 1983-2010

(d) any other relevant information

11. Areas of Practice.

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

General Practice

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

15	Business	1	Criminal
15	Domestic	<u>10</u>	Estates
15	Civil Litigation	<u>15</u>	Real Estate
20	Municipal	<u>4</u>	Other (specify) Various

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

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

Hundreds of times

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

2 federal courts
40 state courts of record
58 administrative hearings. *including District Justice Courts*

(c) What percentage of your litigation was:

civil **99**

criminal. **1**

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

5	jury	<u>75</u>	nonjury
5	arbitration	<u>15</u>	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. **PA Supreme, Superior & Commonwealth**

Third Circuit Court of Appeal

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. **YES**

Judge - Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County

Appointed - October 2010

Took Office - November 2010

(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. **YES**

See attached Resume

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.

See attached Resume

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 of Pennsylvania and any other jurisdiction stated in Paragraph 15	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>

(2) Federal or State governmental agencies

X
James McMath 3-21-11
Signature/date

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

The undersigned certifies that all 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 and done so with the understanding they will be made public.

3-21-11
Date

James M. McMaster
Candidate

Revised and adopted by the ad hoc Merit Selection Committee, January 2009.

JUDGE JAMES M. McMASTER

RESIDENCE :

6001 Bensalem Blvd.
Bensalem, PA 19020

OFFICE :

Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County
30 East Court Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
Phone: (215) 340-8059

EDUCATION:

Rutgers University School of Law,
Camden, New Jersey
Degree: Juris Doctorate, June 1977

The Pennsylvania State University
Degree: Bachelor of Arts, August 1974

Graduate work in Public Administration
and Public Personnel Management, at
Penn State in 1976-1977

OCCUPATION:

Current: Judge of the Court of Common
Pleas of Bucks County
1977-2010: Attorney in private practice in
Newtown, PA

BAR ADMISSION:

Admitted to practice law before the Courts of
Pennsylvania, the Federal District Court for
Eastern Pennsylvania, as well as before the
United States Court of Appeals for the Third
Circuit and the US Supreme Court.

MEMBERSHIPS:

American Bar Association
Life Fellow - American Bar Foundation
Pennsylvania Bar Association
Bucks County Bar Association
Member Board of Directors 2006-2008
Chair-Merit Selection Committee 1987
Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce
Bucks County IU Art Education Trust
President of Board of Trustees

PAST COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Elected School Director:
School District of Bensalem Twp.
1981-83 and 1997 to 2005
Board President - 1982 - 1983 and
1999 to 2001
Bucks County Technical School
Member Joint Committee:
1997 to 2005
Bucks County Schools IU #22:
Board Member, 1999 to 2005
Vice-President 2000-01
President 2001 to 2005
Bensalem Chamber of Commerce:
Secretary - 1980 to 1981
Director - 1980 to 2001
President - 1986 to 1987
James Michener Art Museum
Business Partner Advisory Board
Delaware Valley Regional Finance
Authority - Board member and
Secretary - 1995
Vice Chairman - 1996
Chairman - 1997
Elected Auditor - Lower Southampton
Township: 1976 to 1979