

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE

I, Sarra Terry, a candidate for judicial office, have familiarized myself with the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Code of Civility, as promulgated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. I have directed special attention to Canon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, including Rules 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4. I agree to conduct my judicial campaign consistent therewith and further consistent with *Republican Party v. White*, 536 U.S. 765 (2002). I further pledge that all campaign advertising will be done fairly, accurately, truthfully, and will maintain the dignity appropriate to the judicial office which I am seeking.

Sarra Terry
Signature of Candidate

12-19-24

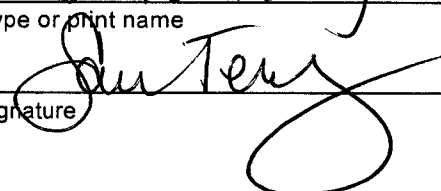
Date

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

As a candidate or potential candidate for Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas the Pennsylvania Appellate or Federal Courts, I hereby acknowledge and authorize the procedures of the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee, including the following:

1. If I become a candidate, the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee will make available to the public the Questionnaire, and my responses, except for the questions and responses which are acknowledged to be confidential, which information shall remain available only to the Committee.
2. My responses are provided without breaching client confidentiality as embodied in Rule 1.6 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
3. If I become a candidate, the rating assigned to me by the Committee will be publicly announced. Ratings remain valid for 2 years but are subject to reevaluation upon request.
4. Should I receive a *Not Recommended* rating the Committee will endeavor to notify me prior to a public announcement. If I withdraw from the race, the rating will not be announced, and the questionnaires will not be published.
5. 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 Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee. I hereby specifically waive any confidentiality rights I may have in those records.
6. 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 Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee. I hereby specifically waive any confidentiality rights I may have in those records.
7. The Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee may change, during the course of my campaign for office, the original rating assigned to me for cause.

12-19-24
Date

Sara Terry
Type or print name

Signature

ACBA JUDICIARY COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LAWYER APPLICANTS

I am seeking a rating for the following court:

- Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
 Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court
 Pennsylvania Superior Court
 Pennsylvania Supreme Court

1. State your full name and list any other name by which you have ever been known. Sarra Nicole Jadwiga Terry, Sarra Nicole Jadwiga Holt
2. Date and place of birth. October 15, 1984 in Canon City, Colorado
3. Are you a naturalized citizen? If so, give date and place of naturalization. N/A
4. Family status:
 - a) Are you married? If so, state the date of marriage and your spouse's full name, including maiden name, if applicable. Yes, I married Timothy James Terry on June 17th, 2017. My maiden name was Sarra Nicole Jadwiga Holt.
 - b) Have you been divorced? If so, state the date, the number of the case and the court. No.
5. Have you served in the military? No. If so,
 - a) Give dates, branch of service, rank of rate and present status;
 - b) Have you ever been rejected or released from the armed services for reasons other than honorable? If so, give details.
6. List each college and law school you attended, including dates of attendance, any scholastic honors, and the degrees awarded. If you left any institution without receiving a degree, state the reason for leaving. Cape Fear Community College, 2003-2005, transferred to the University of North Carolina- Wilmington to pursue my bachelor's degree. University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 2005-2007, Bachelor of Arts, and Duquesne University School of Law, 2007-2011, Juris Doctorate

7. 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. Admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 25th, 2011 and the Western District of Pennsylvania, on March 7th, 2013
8. List your professional mailing address and telephone number including the name of any associated law firm. Please also list any personal and professional social media usernames and/or handles and any websites you maintain or to which you know that your profile is shared. Business- Dickie McCamey & Chilcote, 2 PPG Place, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, (412)392-5365, www.dmclaw.com. Personal- Facebook- @SarraTerry, @VoteforSarra, CommonPleas. Instagram- @sarra03 and @sarraterryesq. X- @SarraTerry32047. TikTok-@sarraterry0
9. Describe chronologically your law practice and experience after your graduation from law school, 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; I served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Paul Cozza in the Family Division of the Allegheny Court of Common Pleas from August of 2012-December 6th, 2024.
 - b) Whether you practiced alone and, if so, the addresses and the dates; I had a private practice from October of 2011 until December of 2012.
 - 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; and,
 - d) Any other relevant particulars. I served as a law clerk at Stewart, Melograne & Zinski, 1710 Lawyers Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15219, from 2007-2011. I still serve as Special Counsel at Dickie, McCamey, & Chilcote, P.C., 2 PPG Place, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, where I have been employed since December of 2012.
10. Regarding your practice:
- a) What has been the general character of your practice, dividing it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years? I have primarily handled criminal defense cases from 2011 to the present. I have represented defendants, witnesses and victims in these cases. I also handle some civil cases and landlord/tenant matters every year. I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants in both areas. I have

also appeared before the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapist and Professional Counselors.

- b) Describe your typical clients and mention the areas in which you have concentrated your practice. When I first began practicing law, I handled a wide variety of criminal cases from arrest all the way through sentencing. I also was court appointed to do some appellate work on criminal cases early on in my career. Additionally, I represented clients at probation violation hearings. Some of these cases involved crimes of violence, including one homicide case. However, as I transitioned into my role as Special Counsel at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C., I started taking on less violent crimes. I typically do not handle any violent crimes cases and focus my practice on Driving Under the Influence cases and violations of the Controlled Substances Act. Those cases compromise roughly 80% of my caseload and have for the last 10 years.

11. Regarding the last ten years:

- a) Did you appear in court regularly, occasionally, or not at all? If the frequency of your appearances in court has varied during this period, describe each such variance, giving the dates thereof; I appear in court almost every week in some capacity. I would estimate that I am in court 10-15 days a month and have appeared at this frequency since 2018. The only times that I did not appear this frequently were when I was in late stages of pregnancy and when I was on maternity leave. I did not have as many clients on my caseload from 2013-2018 so I would estimate that I appeared slightly less than 10-15 days a month. In 2011 and 2012, I appeared in court roughly 4-8 times a month.
- b) What percentage of these appearances was in:
1. Federal courts: 0%
 2. State courts of record: 98%
 3. Other courts: 2%
- c) What percentage of your litigation was:
1. Civil: 10%
 2. Criminal: 90%
 3. Family: 0%
 4. Orphans' Division: 0%
- d) State the number of cases in courts of record you tried to verdict or judgment (rather

than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel or associate counsel. One jury trial as co-counsel and three/four bench trials as sole counsel.

e) What percentage of these trials were:

1. Jury: 33%
2. Non-jury: 66%

12. Summarize your experience in court the last ten years, indicating:

- a) Whether your appearances in court were more or less frequent; My court appearances have increased greatly over the last ten years. I handled approximately 15-20 cases per year in 2014. I would estimate that I handle 40-50 per year now. Most of these cases result in negotiated pleas or entry into divisionary programs. However, each case requires roughly 2 to 3 court appearances.
- b) Any significant changes in the percentages stated in your answers to question 11(b), (c) and (e); and,
- c) Any significant changes in the number of cases per year in courts of record you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), as sole counsel, chief counsel or associate counsel. My practice mostly consists of Driving Under the Influence cases or violations of the Controlled Substances Act. Most of these cases are not eligible to be tried in front of a jury. As a result, I have not represented a client in a jury trial for several years. Any legal issues with my current cases are typically handled through pre-trial motions and the subsequent hearings on those motions. It is rare that I will proceed to a non-jury trial if my pre-trial motions are denied. This is because there are not usually factual issues that warrant trying a case after the court has denied a pre-trial motion. My practice has evolved a great deal in the last thirteen years. The nature of the cases that I typically take on do not necessitate frequent trial work.

13. Describe five of the most significant litigated matters which you personally handled (give the citations if the cases were reported and docket numbers if unreported) by providing a capsule summary of each case and a succinct statement of what you believe to be the particular significance of the case; the party or parties whom you represented; the name of the Court, Judge and contact information if known of counsel for any other party; your role in the litigation; and the final disposition.

Commonwealth v. J.L., CP-02-CR-0017394-2009, Honorable Kathleen Durkin. Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Mr. L. was charged with Criminal Homicide, and Discharge of a Firearm into a Structure as the result of a shooting that occurred in October of 2009.

Attorney Robert Stewart was lead counsel and I served as co-counsel. This case proceeded to a jury trial in early April of 2012 and Mr. L. was found guilty of all charges. I found this case to be significant because there was a tremendous amount of physical evidence and wiretapped phone calls from an unrelated federal investigation. There were several witnesses including eyewitnesses, experts and police officers. Attorney Stewart and I had the opportunity to visit the Allegheny Crime Lab to speak with the lab technicians and the medical examiner about the collection and testing of DNA evidence. As a young lawyer, it was a critical experience because I got the opportunity to learn about the scientific process in which this type of evidence is collected and tested. In addition, learning how to select a jury is such an important skill set for an attorney. Not only must you understand the rules regarding jury selection but must be able to make quick decisions about the selection of potential jurors.

Commonwealth v. Mitchell Graham (Case number unknown as the case was subject to Clean Slate and the files was disposed of) Honorable Kevin Sasinoski- Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas- Mr. Graham was charged with Driving Under the Influence after Etna police officers responded to a roll over crash on Route 28. When the officer arrived, Mr. Graham was in the back of the ambulance. They spoke with him briefly and he was transported to the emergency room. The police did not accompany him to the hospital at the time but rather obtained a search warrant days later to access his medical records. A urine sample was taken from Mr. Graham while receiving treatment. Routine medical testing revealed a positive result for an illicit substance. The test result showed a positive result but did not contain any levels of the particular substance. I filed a Motion to Suppress on behalf of Mr. Graham. We participated in a hearing on the motion, which Judge Sasinoski denied. The court permitted the testimony to be incorporated into a non-jury trial and Mr. Graham was acquitted of the DUI charges. I think that this was a significant case because it raised several evidentiary issues. Not only were there chain of custody issues but the Commonwealth could not provide expert testimony that would support the notion that a positive urine result alone could definitively prove impairment.

Commonwealth v. C.M., CP-02-CR-003434-2022- Honorable Thomas Caulfield- Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Mr. M. was operating his motor vehicle in the Borough of Millvale after a significant amount of snowfall. A Millvale police officer witnessed what he described as a “wide” turn which caused Mr. M.’s tires to go over a snow pile alongside a roadside barrier. He did not make a traffic stop and followed Mr. M. onto a ramp leading to Route 28. This officer then reported that Mr. M. failed to maintain his lane once more. I filed a Motion to Suppress based on the notion that Mr. M.’s momentary travel outside of his lane in a minor manor did not give the police officer probable cause to effectuate a traffic stop. Judge Caulfield conducted a Suppression Hearing but ultimately denied the motion. I think this case was significant because it demonstrated how broad the trial court’s discretion was when deciding what facts support a finding that the travel outside of one’s lane was momentary and minor. This is an issue that comes up regularly in DUI cases.

Commonwealth v. K.I., OTN: G 904093-1- District Justice Kevin Cooper- Pittsburgh

Municipal Court. Mr. I. was charged with several counts of Aggravated Assault after an alleged shooting outside of his home. Co-Counsel, Corey Day, and I conducted a lengthy Preliminary Hearing on this matter which included testimony from approximately 5 witnesses. There was a significant history between the parties, and this was not an isolated incident. Two of the alleged victims in this case testified and provided inconsistent statements about their interactions with the defendant leading up to this event. While I recognized that this testimony would not necessarily determine whether the charges were held for court, I believed that it would be vital for impeachment purposes when the case went to trial. I became pregnant and was unable to handle this case past the Preliminary Hearing phase, but I do think it is significant because it reflects how important it is to conduct hearings and cross examine witnesses when there are evidentiary and credibility issues in a case.

Commonwealth v. Phillip Demas- (Case Number unknown as the case was subject to Clean Slate and the files was disposed of)- Honorable Edward Borkowski- Mr. Demas was charged with writing Bad Checks. Mr. Demas failed to appear at a Preliminary Hearing and a warrant was issued for his arrest. The warrant remained in effect for nearly fifteen years until Mr. Demas encountered law enforcement for an unrelated reason. The Commonwealth proceeded with the prosecution of Mr. Demas despite the amount of time that had passed. I presented a Motion to Dismiss based on the Commonwealth's failure to prosecute the case in a timely manner. Judge Borkowski granted the motion and the charges were dismissed. This was a significant case because it required the court to determine whether the Commonwealth, either through the affiant or through the District Attorney's Office, acted with due diligence in pursuing the charges. These types of procedural issues are vital to safeguarding a defendant's constitutional rights.

14. If a substantial period of your practice has been before administrative boards, commissions or agencies during the past ten years, identify the boards, commissions or agencies before which you have practiced and estimate percentages of practice time devoted thereto. I have not handled a significant number of cases before administrative boards. I typically handle one to two cases before the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review per year. In addition, I have appeared before the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.
15. If a substantial portion of your practice has been before Appellate courts during the past ten years, identify the Appellate Courts before which you have practiced and estimate percentages of practice time devoted thereto. I do not have an appellate practice.
16. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, give dates and details, including the court involved, whether elected or appointed, periods of services and a description of the jurisdiction of each of such courts with any limitations upon the jurisdiction of each court indicating the time(s) that you were the subject of a Motion or Petition for Recusal. No.
17. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, give details, including the office, whether elected or appointed and the length of your service, giving details.

No.

18. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including dates. No.
19. 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. The only other employment that I have held outside of law were part time jobs during college and high school.
20. Are you now an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? No.
 - a) 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.
 - b) Is it your intention to resign such positions and withdraw from any participation in the management of any such enterprises if you are elected and confirmed? If not, give reasons.
21. Are you under any ongoing federal, state or local investigation or indictment for possible violation of a criminal statute? If so, give details. No.
22. Have you ever been charged or convicted of any violation of a local, state or federal law, any misdemeanor or felony, court martialled, been granted immunity from prosecution, been held in contempt of court or been the subject of a final protection from abuse order? If so, give details. Do not include summary traffic offenses. Yes. I was charged with Driving Under the Influence in 2004. I successfully completed the ARD Program and the charges were dismissed. Any record of this arrest has been expunged from my criminal record.
23. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? If so, give details. No.
24. Have you ever been sued by a client? If so, give details. No.
25. Have you ever been a party to 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.

26. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee or other professional group? If so, give the details. No.
27. Currently or within the past five (5) years have you suffered from any medical or other condition which could affect or impair your judgment, reliability or ability to perform the essential functions of the judicial position you are seeking? If so, describe. No.
28. 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.
29. Furnish one (1) writing sample that reflects your analysis of a legal problem or issue.
30. 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. Please also identify any leadership role you have held in such groups. N/A.
31. List your experiences in teaching and lecturing, including law school, continuing legal education and to non-legal audiences. N/A.
32. 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. I am currently a member of the Pittsburgh Legal Diversity and Inclusivity Coalition. In addition, I also volunteer with the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank and the Jewish Burial Association.
33. 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. N/A.
34. State any other information which may reflect positively or adversely on you or which you believe should be disclosed. I grew up in a working class, lower income family. The neighborhood that I grew up in was flooded with heroin in the 1990's. I witnessed many friends and family members suffer from addiction. I got to see the fallout from the opioid epidemic firsthand. This always stuck with me and is probably the reason why I pursued a career in law. I always felt compelled to work with individuals suffering from substance abuse and mental health issues. Advocating for your client is about more than just getting a good result. When I can encourage a client to do the hard work and deal with the underlying issues that have led to the criminality, I see people make meaningful changes that promote recovery. In addition, almost 80% of the kids that come into Juvenile Court have experienced some form of trauma in their lives. I am committed to finding ways to work with

outside agencies and community services to address some of these issues. I have written dozens of opinions on the effects of trauma on the litigants in Juvenile Court. It is an issue that I think is incredibly important for a sitting judge to understand. I have learned a great deal about this subject, both through trauma-informed training from the courts or on my own accord.

35. Why do you wish to become a Justice or Judge? What strengths do you possess that would particularly well qualify you for such a position? I want to become a judge because of my personal and professional experiences. I have gotten the opportunity to see the good and bad parts of our communities. I have a treatment forward law practice and have been working with people suffering from addiction and mental health issues for the last 13 years. As a law clerk, I have gained valuable and unique experience participating in the judicial process. The combination of these two jobs has given me the ability to understand how and why people find themselves in the court system and how a judge's decision can impact a person's family, freedom and finances.
36. What do you consider a significant achievement in your life outside your profession? In the past two years, I began volunteering in my community. I work with two groups regularly but try to volunteer for whatever I can. This has been extremely rewarding, and I hope to inspire others to get involved in the community as well. In addition, I am extremely proud to be raising two sons. In these uncertain times, I hope to raise children who stand up for their beliefs. My goal is and has always been to send two young men in to this world who treat others with kindness and respect.
37. Please identify specific efforts you have made, or been involved with, to support equality and inclusion in the legal profession. I currently volunteer with the Pittsburgh Legal Diversity and Inclusivity Coalition. This organization works with several local law firms and corporations to promote diversity and inclusivity in the legal field. Currently, I volunteer at various Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Pittsburgh with other PLDIC members. We get to interact with students in the hopes that we can encourage them to pursue a legal career. In addition, the organization offers scholarships to law school students to help ease the financial burden many students face. These are some of the many ways that PLDIC is working to bring much needed changes to the legal field in Western Pennsylvania.

The undersigned certifies that 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.

Sarra Terry
Type or print name

Sarra Terry
Signature

12-19-24
Date