

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

**JUDICIAL CANDIDATE PLEDGE**

I, Lauren Leiggi, 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.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate



\_\_\_\_\_  
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 If I withdraw from the race, the rating will not be announced, and the questionnaires will not be published.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.

10/25  
Date

Laura Ligeti  
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.  
Lauren Marie Leiggi
  
2. Date and place of birth.  
September 15, 1989; Edison, New Jersey
  
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, June 23, 2023. Sarah Cosette Hampton
  
  - b) Have you been divorced? If so, state the date, the number of the case and the court.  
N/A
  
5. Have you served in the military? If so,
  - a) Give dates, branch of service, rank of rate and present status;  
N/A
  
  - b) Have you ever been rejected or released from the armed services for reasons other than honorable? If so, give details.  
N/A

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.

Temple Law, Beasley School of Law, JD, August 2018 – May 2021.

Conwell Scholar, Rubin-Presser Social Justice Fellow, The Beth Cross Award.

Student Public Interest Network Honors Grant Recipient; Outstanding Oral Advocacy in Integrated Trial Advocacy Program I (Criminal Trial); Distinguished Class Participation in Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure I, ITAP II (Civil Trial).

University of Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Arts in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies with a concentration in Sociology, August 2014 – May 2017

*Magna cum laude*. Association of Alumane Continuing Education Award, undergraduate honors thesis -- Wonder Woman: A Token of American Anxieties on Gender, as Shown Through Comic Books.

Middlesex County College, August 2012 – May 2014. Left institution without degree due to transfer to UPenn.

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.

Pennsylvania - admitted October 2021.

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.

Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender.  
542 Forbes Ave, COB 400, Pittsburgh PA, 15219.  
Desk 412 350 3524, Cell, 412 606 6551.

Twitter, Instagram, Threads, Blue Sky: @LLthePD, @LLforCP  
Facebook: Lauren Leiggi for Common Pleas, Lauren Leiggi

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;

N/A for post-graduation. I detail my clerking experience during law school later in this application.

- b) Whether you practiced alone and, if so, the addresses and the dates;  
N/A

- 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 have worked at the Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender from August 2021 to Present. I was in the pre-trial division from August 2021 to September of 2022. I have been in the trial division since September of 2022, where I also started the Immigration Consequences Group (ICG).

I have been the lead attorney for the ICG, which was formalized in January 2023. This group provides assistance to non-citizen clients facing criminal charges. To date, this group has advised over 800 non-citizen clients — college students, construction workers, and almost life-long Allegheny County residents alike — about the different risks they face within the criminal legal system.

I have represented thousands of clients at every stage of trial, from preliminary hearings to jury trials and everything in between. I have experience with every type of criminal case, from DUIs and retail thefts, to grand jury indictments, sex offense crimes, and homicides.

**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 represented individuals facing criminal charges at every stage of trial. From August 2021 to September 2022, I primarily represented individuals in the preliminary stages of trial. This included conducting preliminary hearings, bond hearings, bond arraignments, summary trials, and traffic court hearings.

From September 2022 to Present I have worked in the trial division of the Allegheny Public Defender's Office. As a trial attorney, my practice includes pre-trial motions, non-jury and jury trials, and post-sentence motions. I began taking on major felony cases immediately upon my transfer to the trial division. These cases are often more complex and can include sex offense cases, grand jury indictments, aggravated assaults, and homicides. These cases are handled vertically (meaning I also handle the pre-trial litigation) from start to finish due

to their demanding nature.

In January of 2023, the Immigration Consequences Group was formalized with me as the lead attorney. While maintaining my own docket of non-immigration related criminal cases, I also have this supervisory role – where I not only advise my own clients about potential immigration consequences to their criminal matters, but I advise other attorneys in my office as well. Specifically, I assign other members of the unit to prepare memos for attorneys in our office to review with their clients. For more complicated cases, I prepare these memos and review them with clients myself. I collect data on the clients within this unit to better anticipate which community members are most at risk. I collaborate with administrative court staff to improve language access in the court, in the jail, and within our direct office. I provide know your rights trainings for local immigration organizations. I also conduct CLEs and other trainings for attorneys within my office and with the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania.

- b) Describe your typical clients and mention the areas in which you have concentrated your practice.

I represent indigent clients facing criminal charges, and most frequently I represent clients charged with violent crimes. The majority of my cases involve domestic violence, aggravated assault, and sex offense charges. A notable amount of my clients are not American citizens, but are facing charges within the American criminal legal system simultaneously with pending immigration matters.

I do not, and cannot, choose who my clients are. I am assigned to clients regardless of their charges, personality, or socioeconomic status.

**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;
- b) What percentage of these appearances was in:
1. Federal courts: N/A
  2. State courts of records: 100% Court of Common Pleas and Magisterial District Courts.
  3. Other courts: N/A

- c) What percentage of your litigation was:
1. Civil: N/A
  2. Criminal: 95%
  3. Family: 5% in PFA/ICC matters
  4. Orphans' Division: N/A
- 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.
- Approximately 20+ trials.
- e) What percentage of these trials were:
1. Jury: 15%
  2. Non-jury: 85%

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

- a) Whether your appearances in court were more or less frequent;
- 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 experience in court has only increased as my practice goes on. I joined the Office of the Public Defender after the COVID lock down was lifted, and therefore, my first year in the pre-trial division saw fewer cases on the docket than my colleagues have previously experienced. However, now criminal courts are seeing pre-COVID dockets. I have a full trial docket that has me in court Monday through Thursday, every week, with multiple jury trials scheduled a month. By the end of 2025, I anticipate having at least four more jury trials. There population of non-citizens in Allegheny County also continues to increase, and as I am the lead attorney advising on immigration matters, I am often in court regarding cases that are not part of my individual trial docket.

**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.

- A) My client with dementia was charged with sexually abusing a minor. The only witness was an individual who was unsure of what she saw, and the only other evidence was a recorded confession by the client after hours of interrogation by officers.

I successfully litigated a Corpus Delicti motion, which challenged the Commonwealth to produce evidence of the crime beyond just my client's statements. Without this motion, the Commonwealth intended to proceed to trial on my client's statements and without any other form of supporting evidence. I was the second chair to attorney Taylor Marie Corn, and I was responsible for research and drafting the motion. In court, we both argued various prongs of the motion in front of the Honorable Judge Beemer. The Commonwealth was represented by ADA Ken Harris.

The motion was decided in our favor, resulting in the case being Nolle Prossed and the charges against my client withdrawn. It was the first successful litigation on a Corpus Delicti motion that our office had seen in several years.

Client: for the defense; Court of Common Pleas – Criminal Division. Honorable Judge Beemer. ADA Ken Harris, [KHarris@alleghenycountyda.us](mailto:KHarris@alleghenycountyda.us) CC: 2021-3729. First Chair: Taylor Corn, [TaylorCorn@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:TaylorCorn@alleghenycounty.us), Second Chair: Lauren Leiggi. *Nolle prose.*

- B) My client was accused of sexually assaulting the commonwealth witness. The client averred that the complaining witness was fabricating the assault to get out of trouble and sought to cross-examine his accuser. This evidence, however, was precluded under the "Rape Shield Statue" – but it was needed to help establish the accusers' motive to lie.

I argued a motion to pierce the Rape Shield, incorporating caselaw to show why the statute did not cover the specific scenario at hand. Judge Beemer granted my motion in part to address the potential prior sexual acts as a motive to lie in the case at hand.

I was the second person in my entire office, within the last decade, to successfully argue a motion to pierce the Rape Shield. I was permitted to cross examine the complaining witness regarding that crucial video evidence.

- C) The case referenced above, with the same parties, continued to trial and resulted in a hung jury. This was only the second sex offense case in recent years for my office that resulted in a hung jury. It was my first jury trial as the first chair, and it was a complex defense to present.

I cross examined multiple Commonwealth witnesses, including hostile and expert witnesses. The Commonwealth put on three witnesses and defense put on five witnesses. Between jury selection, the evidence presented, and jury deliberation, the trial took a week to conclude – with a hung jury. The ultimate outcome in the case, after the case was set for



a new trial date, resulted in a plea deal that was agreed upon by all parties and accepted by Judge Beemer.

B & C: Client: for the defense; Court of Common Pleas – Criminal Division. Honorable Judge Beemer. ADA Tom Kelly, [Tkelly@alleghenycountyda.us](mailto:Tkelly@alleghenycountyda.us). Docket CC: 2022-1001. First Chair: Lauren Leiggi, Second Chair: Melissa Leech, [Melissa.Leech@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Melissa.Leech@alleghenycounty.us). B) motion granted; C) jury hung then negotiated guilty plea.

- D) I filed a Rule 600 motion for lack of due diligence of prosecution, on behalf of my client who was alleged to have committed a trespass and assault at a retail store. Charges were filed against my client and he was lodged in two PA state facilities before eventually being detained in a federal facility. The Commonwealth lost track of the location of my client. Due to no fault of my client, despite being arraigned on the charges and in custody, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania did not timely process the case. When I was assigned the case, the timing of the case was alarming. I quickly worked with investigators in my office to retrieve documentation of my client's location. Therefore, on the first trial listing I was able to file a Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to Rule 600. The Commonwealth did not contest the motion and withdrew the case.

Client: for the defense; Court of Common Pleas – Criminal Division. Honorable Judge Flaherty. ADA Brad Sullivan, [Bsullivan@alleghenycountyda.us](mailto:Bsullivan@alleghenycountyda.us), Docket CC: 2021-2932. First Chair: Lauren Leiggi. motion not contested, case *Nolle prosequere*.

- E) My elderly client was charged with inappropriately touching a nurse in a care facility, while resided in an assisted living facility. My client was unaware of his actions, was unable to walk on his own, and suffered from various cognitive disabilities. Once assigned to the case, I began working with a mitigation specialist and was able to present information in a motion to determine competency. My motion was granted by Judge Lazzara and my client received further assessments, ultimately being found incompetent. After presenting the assessments to the Commonwealth, his competency was not contested and the case was withdrawn.

Client: for the defense, Court of Common Pleas – Criminal Division. Honorable Judge Lazzara. ADA Marnie Potter, [Mpotter@alleghenycountyda.us](mailto:Mpotter@alleghenycountyda.us) Docket CC: 2022-05285. First Chair: Lauren Leiggi. Motion granted, case *Nolle prosequere*.

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

Yes. I am currently the elected Local Bargaining Unit President for the United Steel Workers Union, Local 9002. I am President for the public defenders, district attorneys, medical examiners, Kane employees, and some court and jail employees. The term is a four-year term – the length of our county bargaining agreement contract. I lead union meetings, set agendas, assist with grievance discussions, and ensure that decisions are made democratically during meetings. I oversee the enforcement of union contracts, working with stewards and legal counsel to address violations and grievances. I also represent the union in negotiations with county and office management to secure favorable contracts for members, including wages, benefits, and working conditions.

17. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

N/A

18. 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.

My past ten years of work experience is as follows:

**AL OTRO LADO, BORDER RIGHTS PROJECT**, Philadelphia, PA January 2021 – May 2021

Legal Intern with Temple Law's Asylum Clinic

I supported staff attorneys by conducting credible fear interviews, completing intake forms, and preparing I-589 asylum forms. Research, drafted, and filed TORT claims against the Federal Government for human rights violations for formally detained Asylee seekers.

**INTEGRATED TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM**, Philadelphia, PA August 2020 – December 2020

*Teaching Assistant to the Honorable Judge Mia R. Perez*

I served as a witness to help students practice their trial advocacy skills with depositions, direct, and cross examinations. Assisted the Judge in scheduling classes, troubleshooting zoom issues, and met with students outside of class to assist with trial preparation and strategy.

**DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA**, Philadelphia, PA

*Legal Intern with the Criminal Litigation Clinic* May 2020 – December 2020

I conducted pre-trial client interviews and handled preliminary hearings. I prepared and argued suppression motions. I as well researched and assisted trial attorneys with felony and misdemeanor cases.

**CITY LAW DEPARTMENT, TORT LITIGATION UNIT**, Philadelphia, PA January 2020 – May 2020

*Certified Legal Intern with the City Solicitor's Officer*

I drafted answers to complaints regarding lawsuits against the City of Philadelphia pursuant to the Pennsylvania Torts Claims Act. I researched and drafted memorandums of law for motions, including summary judgment motions. I appeared in court during discovery motion hearings with the supervising attorney. I reviewed and summarized medical history files for arbitration hearings. Assisted in and observed arbitration hearings with supervising attorneys.

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, CRIMINAL DIVISION**, Philadelphia, PA May 2019 – May 2020

*Law Clerk to the Honorable Judge Mia R. Perez*

Researched and drafted memorandums of law regarding receiving stolen property, taint hearings, prior bad acts, and aggravated assault. Drafted Orders and Opinions for Judge's review. Observed jury and waiver trials, motions, bail hearings, sentencings, violations of parole, and jury selections.

**PENN LAW, TOLL PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER**, Philadelphia, PA 2016-2018

*Manager of Events, Publicity & Office Administration*

Planned and executed symposiums, lectures, and fundraising dinners for the public interest and government sector programming. Organized and improved upon training for public interest student groups which included pro bono community clinics. Oversaw and maintained program budgeting, materials, and annual reports.

**PERGAMENT & CEPEDA LLP**, Morristown, NJ Summer 2014, 2015, 2016

*Legal Assistant*

Assisted the managing partner with the firm's patent prosecution docket. Organized and maintained personal documents and case files. Maintained correspondence, documents, and other legal materials from patent prosecution clients. Drafted and revised legal documents for clients and agents.

19. 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.

N/A

- 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.

N/A

20. Are you under any ongoing federal, state or local investigation or indictment for possible violation of a criminal statute? If so, give details.

No

21. 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.

No.

22. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? If so, give details.

Yes, I had an old credit card go to collections in my early twenties from an account that I believed had been cancelled. Once I discovered there was a remaining balance, I paid off the outstanding balance with a payment plan.

23. Have you ever been sued by a client? If so, give details.

No.

24. 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.

Yes, through a worker's comp claim. Over a decade ago I was involved in an accident at the shoe retail store, Timberland Factory Outlet, where I was injured on the job. I did not receive my pay and due to the injury, I had to undergo medical procedures. My attorney was able to successfully receive my back pay and compensation for my medical expenses.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. Furnish one (1) writing sample that reflects your analysis of a legal problem or issue.

attached omnibus pretrial motion

29. 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.

Ivy+ Alumni Association of Pittsburgh -- member.

30. List your experiences in teaching and lecturing, including law school, continuing legal education and to non-legal audiences.

PUBLIC DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA, Pittsburgh, PA 2024 - Present

*Crimmigration Training Series Lecturer*

Developed and delivered a four-part online series focused on Crimmigration and holistic defense strategies for public defenders. Covered key topics including the impact of criminal law on immigration status, effective advocacy techniques, and collaborative approaches to client representation. Engaged participants through interactive discussion and practical case studies to enhance understanding and application of defense principles.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, Pittsburgh, PA June 2024

*Continuing Legal Education Lecturer*

Designed and facilitated a presentation “*Confronting Racial Inequities in the Criminal Legal System and Practical Reform*” to a body of peers to discuss the findings in the 2023 report written by the Rand Corporation and RTI International Researchers titled: “Creating a Path Forward to Reduce Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System in Allegheny County,” during the 60th Annual ACBA Bench Bar Conference.

THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY, Pittsburgh, PA 2023 - Present

*Immigration Law, Crimmigration Guest Lecturer*

Deliver a comprehensive lecture on the intersection of criminal law and immigration, focusing on the implications of criminal convictions on immigrations status, recent case law, and legislative changes. Engage with students in discussion to enhance understanding of Crimmigration issues and their practical applications.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, Pittsburgh, PA

*Continuing Legal Education Lecturer 2023- Present*

Designed and facilitated an ongoing comprehensive in-house continuing legal education program for criminal attorneys, focusing on the intersection of criminal law and immigration.

CASA SAN JOSE, Pittsburgh, PA

*Know Your Rights Presenter 2022 – Present*

Deliver know your rights training to non-citizens acclimating to the Pittsburgh area to help them understand the legal system in Allegheny County.

31. 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.

Current: Persad- Phoenix Fitness, LGBTQ community, Pittsburgh PA; Pittsburgh 14<sup>th</sup> Ward Independent Democrats, Pittsburgh, PA; Steel City Stonewall Democrats, Pittsburgh PA.

Former: Locally Served, board member, Pittsburgh PA 2023-24; Philadelphia Falcons Soccer Club, Philadelphia PA, 2017-2021; Student Public Interest Network, President then Fundraising Chair, Philadelphia PA 2019-2021; National Lawyers Guild, Human Rights – Immigration Chair, Philadelphia PA, 2019-2021; Outlaw, President, Philadelphia PA, 2019-2022; Temple Law Faculty Hiring Committee, Philadelphia PA, 2019-2020; Morris Women’s Rugby, 2015-2017, Morristown, NJ; Penn Women’s Rugby, Asst. Volunteer Coach, 2016-2017, Captain, 2015-2016, Philadelphia PA; Penn-in-Hand, American Sign Language Association, Member 2015-2017, Philadelphia PA.

32. 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.

Rico Award Finalist, 2022, 2023. Awarded to current Pennsylvania Public Defender with three years’ experience or less who is doing an extraordinary job.

Temple Law Graduating Spotlight Student 2021.

Temple Law Student Leader of the Year, 2020

33. State any other information which may reflect positively or adversely on you or which you believe should be disclosed.

I am the first lawyer in my family, and I am also the daughter of an immigrant mother and first generation father. I do not believe there is anything that would reflect adversely upon me.

34. 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 seek a judicial position because my personal and professional experiences have given me a comprehensive understanding of our justice system's impact. As someone who has experienced poverty firsthand—utilizing food stamps, navigating periods without insurance, and family members who have faced the criminal system—I intimately understand the challenges that many of my clients face. As a public defender, I've shouldered the profound responsibility of representing society's most stigmatized individuals, including advising them to accept plea deals that will impact them and their families' lives for decades. This experience has taught me the weight of judicial decision-making and the importance of careful deliberation. That individuals who are facing criminal charges will one day be back in the community – or their community will be impacted by their incarceration. A judge needs to balance the weight of the individuals' rights and the community. I truly understand and want to practice restorative justice – no matter if it's a civil or criminal matter where the community needs to be made whole.

Additionally, my non-traditional path and diverse background uniquely qualify me for this role. I took off four years between high school and college. While maintaining employment throughout my education, I developed a strong work ethic and practical understanding of time management—skills essential for efficient courtroom administration. As a queer, person of color who has faced strict scrutiny throughout my career, I have consistently delivered excellence and will demand the same standard from attorneys appearing before me, and myself. This includes punctuality and efficient use of court resources.

My qualifications extend beyond personal experience. I have continuously challenged myself to do more. I went from community college to an ivy league university. I then went to the number one trial advocacy law school in the nation. I ensured I went to schools that would give me a quality education and prepare me to hit the ground running. I was able to clerk for a judge and travel abroad to do a clinic all while in law school. I believe my tenacity and ability to understand complex matters is reflected through my advancement in the public defender's office. In my first year of work, I established the Immigration Consequences Group. To date I have provided critical guidance to over

800 non-citizen clients. I have also been assigned to defend grand-jury indictments, attempted homicides, and rape cases all in my short time at the public defender's office. I am suited for the bench because my expertise spans criminal defense, immigration law, and public interest work.

I am particularly committed to diversionary courts and alternative sentencing approaches, recognizing that our bench benefits from diversity and fresh perspectives. This combination of lived experience, professional expertise, and understanding of judicial responsibility positions me to serve effectively while bringing genuine empathy to the bench.

Our community means more to me than following the status quo. Now more than ever in Allegheny County, we need a judge that is not just sympathetic to our community, but who is empathetic — and that need is what drives me to run for judge now.

**35. What do you consider a significant achievement in your life outside your profession?**

One of my most significant personal achievements was overcoming a severe injury in 2012 that threatened to permanently alter my quality of life. After sustaining a traumatic brain injury, concussion, and three herniated discs, I was bedridden for a month and unable to engage in physical activity for six months. The recovery process was particularly challenging as athletics had been central to my identity throughout my life. Through dedication to extensive physical and occupational therapy, including five back procedures, I not only recovered but excelled beyond expectations. I returned to competitive athletics at the highest collegiate level, being recruited to play Division I Rugby at the University of Pennsylvania. I further competed in a Division II semi-professional women's rugby league. The culmination of this journey was transitioning to assistant coach for the University of Pennsylvania Women's Rugby team, where I helped lead the team to a championship in my first year. This experience demonstrated my resilience, dedication to personal growth, and ability to transform personal challenges into opportunities for leadership and success.

**36. Please identify specific efforts you have made, or been involved with, to support equality and inclusion in the legal profession.**

As a multiracial Latinx, gender non-conforming woman in the legal profession, I actively promote equality through both visibility and action. I organize and participate in name change clinics, expungement clinics, and community outreach events to demonstrate that minorities can succeed in law while providing essential legal services. My office's presence at LGBTQ+ pride events and immigration forums helps build bridges between underserved communities and legal resources.

In my leadership role with the union, I've implemented structural changes to support diversity, including creating dedicated spaces for minority employees and advocating for inclusive practices like pronoun identification in professional communications. I believe meaningful equality comes through creating opportunities for others and opening doors that were previously closed. My approach combines practical legal assistance with systemic advocacy, ensuring both immediate impact and long-term institutional change.



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.

Lauren Leiggi  
Type or print name

  
Signature

1/8/2025  
Date

4869-3368-4484, v. 1