

July 20, 2018

To: Durham People's Alliance Political Action Committee

From: Judge Brian C. Wilks
District Court Judge
14th Judicial District
Candidate for Re-Election

Re: 2018 Endorsements- Questionnaires and Interviews

Dear Committee,

I would like to express my sincere thanks in allowing me to respond to your questionnaire in an effort to better introduce myself and belief systems so that you may have additional information upon which to form your decision regarding endorsements. I come to you, as I did in 2014, asking for your support and endorsement in this year's judicial election. I feel that I have demonstrated, over my 10 years serving as District Court Judge, the ability to be fair, impartial and patient in the administration of justice in Durham. I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve the citizens of Durham in this capacity in future years as well.

First, let me start by telling you a little about my background. I am married to my wife Lisa of 20 plus years and have two children (Justin, 17 and Jori, 16). Justin is a recent graduate of Jordan High School and Jori is a rising junior at Jordan High School in the Durham Public School System. I am originally from Chester, South Carolina, a small, rural farming and mill town. I am the youngest of 5 children who was raised by a mother that worked at a local plant and a father who was a farmer. My siblings and I represent the first generation of college graduates in my family. I attended the University of South Carolina from 1989-1993, where I received a B.S. degree in Political Science. After graduating in 1993, I attended law school at North Carolina Central University School of Law where I graduated in 1996.

After law school, I worked briefly for three months in Winston-Salem, North Carolina as a document review attorney. In January of 1997, I returned to Durham to take a position in the Durham County Public Defender's Office as an Assistant Public Defender. I remained in the Public Defender's Office for 4 years, during which time I represented indigent clients charged with criminal offenses ranging from low-level misdemeanors to high level felonies. My time in the Public Defender's taught me the importance of quality representation for all charged with a criminal offense and the importance of making sure that the legal system and its rules were applied fairly and consistently. During my time as an Assistant Public Defender and off and on until present, I have taught trial practice at North Carolina Central University School of Law. In this position, I am able to teach future lawyers trial skills necessary to zealously represent clients in court and assure that they are prepared to act professionally when appearing in court. Teaching at North Carolina Central allows me the opportunity hone my temperament and communication skills that prove to be important in my position as District Court Judge.

In 2001, I ventured into private practice, first joining a solo practitioner along with one other attorney to form a firm and then practicing as a solo practitioner focused on providing quality representation to the citizens of North Carolina in a variety of legal matters, including state level civil and criminal cases as well as federal criminal cases. My experience in private practice taught me time management skills and allowed me to be empathetic to not only the needs of citizens, but to attorneys alike regarding time spent in the courtroom. In private practice, there were many days that I had to travel from county to county and courtroom to courtroom in an effort to represent citizens. Many of these

citizens needed to be able to handle their legal matters and return to their lives as quickly as possible. Having sat in courtrooms long hours waiting to handle matters as an attorney, as a current District Court Judge I try to be cognizant of the time I require people to remain in my courtroom.

In 2003, I had an opportunity to leave private practice and accept a job as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of North Carolina. In this position, I represented the North Carolina Department of Corrections in complex personnel matters. I also drafted appellate briefs in criminal matters appealed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. While drafting criminal briefs and motions in civil cases I was able to develop my skills at research and writing.

I remained at the North Carolina Attorney General's Office until 2007 when I received a call from the Durham District Attorney's Office asking me to return to Durham to work as the District Court Supervisor. This position gave me the opportunity to implement policies and procedures that would assist the office in managing the high volume of cases heard in District Courts, as well as providing the opportunity to supervise all District Court Assistant District Attorneys. From this position I gathered hands-on experience of District Court operations from a totally different perspective, which allowed me to balance the experiences gained through defense work and bring me full circle in the practice of law. It was from this position that Governor Michael Easley appointed me as District Court Judge in 2008 to serve out the remaining two year term of retiring Judge Craig Brown. In 2010 and 2014, I was fortunate enough to run unopposed for my seat, serving two additional four year terms. This year, thanks to the support of the local bar and the citizens of Durham I again am unopposed for re-election. I truly believe that the faith that the Durham community has placed in me for a third full term comes from the commitment I have made to treat everyone fairly, impartially, with dignity and respect, all attributes that I believe I have obtained from my faith, family rearing, and lessons I have learned in life. To that end, this personal statement regarding my background serves as a precursor to answering the questionnaire, because in reading the questions thoroughly, there are some questions as a sitting trial judge in District Court I do not believe I can answer and be in compliance with the North Carolina Code of Judicial Conduct to "**uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary** and to perform **the duties of my office impartially and diligently.**" *See North Carolina Code of Judicial Conduct Canons 1 & 2*

Sincerely,

Judge Brian C. Wilks
District Court Judge
14th Judicial District

BRIAN CLIFFORD WILKS

2112 Hemlock Hill Drive, Durham, North Carolina 27703

Home Phone (919) 596-8209

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bwilks14@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
14TH Judicial District**JULY 2008- PRESENT**
Durham, North Carolina

Preside over district court matters, including abuse, neglect dependency cases, child support cases, civil jury trials, criminal law cases, family law cases, traffic court cases, as well as previously being assigned to preside over Durham Adult Drug Treatment Court.

DISTRICT COURT SUPERVISOR (DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE)
14TH Prosecutorial District**MARCH 2007-JULY 2008**
Durham, North Carolina

Responsible for supervising the District Court Assistant District Attorneys as well as law school interns. Served as a liaison for the District Attorney's Office to all other courthouse staff. Continuously implemented guidelines and procedures to improve the efficiency of the District Courts. Reviewed unassigned felony cases to make a determination whether the cases need to be indicted to Superior Court. Negotiated both felony and misdemeanor cases. Conducted trials and probable cause hearings.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
North Carolina Department of Justice**OCTOBER 2003 –MARCH 2007**
Raleigh, North Carolina

Provided a broad range of legal services and litigation support to the North Carolina Department of Corrections and its divisions. Defended civil and administrative actions brought by Department of Correction employees raising employment law claims before the Office of Administrative Hearings, the State Personnel Commission, and the State and Federal Courts. Drafted appellate briefs in an effort to uphold convictions in superior court criminal matters.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
North Carolina Central University School of Law**2000-Present**
Durham, North Carolina

Coach the traveling trial advocacy competition teams for competition against other law schools in national trial competitions. Prepare students to present a complete trial from pre-trial motions to closing arguments concerning criminal as well as civil issues. Instruct the students on all aspects of trial preparation, including courtroom decorum, oratory skills, opening statements, direct and cross examinations and closing arguments.

OWNER/PROPRIETOR
OCTOBER 2003
The Law Office of Brian C. Wilks**JANUARY 2003-**
Durham, North Carolina

Handled various types of cases, including family law, personal injury, divorce, real estate, estate matters, child custody and litigated criminal cases on district and superior court levels.

PARTNER
Simons, Fitzpatrick, Wilks & Slade

MARCH 2001- DECEMBER 2002
Durham, North Carolina

Handled various types of cases including criminal law, family law, abuse, neglect and dependency, real estate, personal injury, bankruptcy, divorce and child custody. Co-managed a four-person law firm with a five person legal assistant staff, which included assigning office tasks to staff, preparing payroll, and conducting client interviews.

ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER
Durham County Public Defenders Office

JANUARY 1997-FEBRUARY 2001
Durham, North Carolina

Handled various criminal law cases on the district court and superior court levels, including juvenile court cases. Handled misdemeanor appeals and felony level trials in superior court. Conducted numerous client interviews and plea negotiations.

CONTRACT ATTORNEY
Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice

SEPTEMBER 1996-DECEMBER 1996
Winston Salem, North Carolina

Reviewed documents to ascertain their responsiveness in preparation for litigation. Reviewed the responsive documents to determine if any privilege existed under the federal rules of evidence.

EDUCATION

J.D. LAW
North Carolina Central University School of Law

1993-1996
Durham, North Carolina

B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE
The University of South Carolina

1989-1993
Columbia, South Carolina

LICENSES & ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Member of the Durham County Bar Association
- Member of the North Carolina Bar Association (Admitted August 1996 #23340)
- Member of the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina (Admitted 2001)
- Advance Cross Examination School, Atlanta, GA
- National Criminal Defense College, Macon, GA
- NITA Teaching Certification
- Attended and successfully completed the management training program conducted by the Office of State Personnel
- Racial Equity Training present by the Racial Equity Institute

MEMBERSHIPS

- Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated
- Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity Incorporated
- St. Titus Episcopal Church
- Former Member of the Antioch Builds Community Board of Directors
- Former Member of the State Employee's Credit Union Advisory Board
- Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People

**People's Alliance PAC 2018 Questionnaire
for North Carolina Trial Division Judicial Candidates**

Please return this completed form along with a resume or biographical statement describing your education, work history, community service, and prior political experience as soon as possible, but by **July 20, 2018** at the latest. Please note that following this deadline, the Durham People's Alliance PAC may publish your responses to this questionnaire and your resume.

You may e-mail your responses to Tom Miller at tom-miller@nc.rr.com or mail them to Tom at 1110 Virginia Avenue, Durham, NC 27705

Thank you for completing this questionnaire and your willingness to serve the people of North Carolina.

Candidate's name: _____ Brian Clifford Wilks _____

Judicial office sought: _____ District Court Judge _____

Address: _____ 2112 Hemlock Hill Drive, Durham, NC 27703 _____

E-mail address: _____ brianwilksforjudge@gmail.com _____

Phone: _____ (919) 596-8209 _____

When answering this questionnaire, please repeat the questions in your response document with each question numbered and organized as it appears here. Type your responses in italics, bold, or a different font to distinguish your responses from the questions. Please do not use colors. Please respond to questions using your own words and cite outside sources when applicable. You may explain your answer to every question, but please be concise.

About you:

1. Are you conservative or liberal? Please choose one and then explain your answer.
 - a. *I do not believe I fit squarely in either of the two options presented. What I can say is as a judicial officer it is my job and responsibility as an officer of the court to uphold the law as it is written and to assure equal applicability of the laws to all citizens, regardless of race, color creed or affiliation. I believe that in addition to equal application of the law, that I have a role to treat everyone equitably in sentencing and punishment.*

2. Please describe how your religious and/or philosophical beliefs may affect your conduct and decision making if you are elected.
 - a. *I have a strong faith system which coupled with my background and experience has formed my strong sense of fairness and impartiality and the need for everyone to be treated equally regardless of their race, color, creed, orientation or affiliation. While*

my beliefs shape my sense of fairness, my decisions as a sitting judge have to be made based upon the law and the facts that come before me in the courtroom so that my actions uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary and allow me to perform my duties impartially and diligently in accordance with the canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

3. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense (other than a minor traffic or minor drug offense)? If the answer is yes, please describe the circumstances and the outcome.

a. I have not been convicted of a criminal offense.

4. Have you personally ever been a party in a civil legal proceeding? If the answer is yes, please explain the circumstances and the outcome of the case.

a. I have not personally been the plaintiff or defendant in a law suit.

5. Describe your current community involvement. As a judge, do you envision any community involvement beyond the specific duties of the office? If yes, please describe that involvement.

a. As an active parent of two teenage children, one that has recently graduated high school and the other who is extremely active in the Durham Public School system, a lot of my community involvement center around the Durham Public School system and church related activities. I also enjoy speaking at any and all community or social groups when requested. The various social and community groups I have been involved in while in Durham and since being a Judge are:

- i. North Carolina Bar Association*
- ii. Durham County 14th Judicial District Bar*
- iii. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*
- iv. St. Titus Episcopal Church*
- v. Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church*
- vi. Antioch Builds Community*
- vii. Durham Rescue Mission*
- viii. Durham Homeless Shelter*
- ix. Durham Food Bank*
- x. Oak Grove Athletic Association*
- xi. State Employee Credit Union Advisory Board*
- xii. Bethesda Athletic Association*
- xiii. Durham Striders Track and Field Club*
- xiv. Teen Court*
- xv. John Avery Boys and Girls Clubs*
- xvi. Pearsontown Elementary School*
- xvii. Rogers Herr Middle School*
- xviii. Jordan High School*
- xix. Future Attorney's Challenging Elementary Students*
- xx. Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People*
- xxi. George H. White Bar Association*
- xxii. Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity Incorporated*

About your practice of law:

6. Please describe your practice as a lawyer. Describe the areas of your practice and your specialties. Describe the diversity of your client base as a part of your answer.

a. See personal statement and resume

7. Please describe a case you have handled as an attorney or judge that best illustrates the abilities and temperament you would (or do) display as a judge. Please describe a case you handled where you did not exemplify, perhaps, the model temperament of a judicial figure.

a. A case that best illustrates the abilities and temperament I display as a trial judge would be a case that occurred in Child Support Court. The case involved a self-represented individual who was self-employed that I had to establish the amount of child support he would have to pay. Being self-represented, the individual wasn't familiar with the requirement of a hearing or what he would need to provide to establish his child support amount. The state was represented by an Assistant District Attorney, trained in the practice of law. The citizen brought everything he had (receipts, bank records, payments made directly to custodial parent, travel expenses, salary from work study, graduate assistant jobs, etc.) that consisted of several hundred pages of documents. I was tasked with taking all of the information and organizing and interpreting it out of session so that when we returned to court I would be able to follow his testimony. While the process was slow and methodical, we eventually sifted through all of the information to reach a resolution. Then reason I chose this case was because as a District Court Judge I regularly encounter pro se litigants and as such they need to know that the Judge is reviewing all of their information fairly, allowing them all the time the case needs to be heard and will treat them with the same impartiality and fairness that a citizen with an attorney would receive.

b. A case that I handled where I may not have exemplified the model temperament of a judicial figure would be a case where I had to raise my voice the impress upon the litigants that yelling and arguing at each other was not going to be tolerated. By me having to raise my voice to get the attention of the litigants I was doing the exact same thing that I was trying to control. I strive not to raise my voice or get frustrated in Court because the courtroom tends to take its lead from the Judge. If the Judge consistently yells and shows frustration, then the litigants and people waiting for the cases to be heard may feel that it is appropriate courtroom behavior.

8. Have you ever been publicly or privately disciplined by the North Carolina State Bar or any other professional or occupational licensing authority in North Carolina or any other state? "Disciplined" should be read to include reprimands, censures, and warnings in addition to license suspension, surrender, revocation, and disbarment. Is the State Bar or any governmental authority considering a complaint against you at the present time? Have you ever been found in contempt of court? For each "yes" answer, please tell us what happened and describe the outcome of the matter.

a. I have not been publically or privately disciplined by the Bar or any other professional or occupational organization. Any public Disciplinary actions are a matter of public record with the North Carolina Bar.

b. I am not aware of any consideration by the State Bar or any governmental authority of any complaint involving my conduct as a Judge.

- c. I have never been found in contempt of court, which is a matter of public record.*
9. Please describe the nature and extent of any pro bono work you have done. Is there a pro bono matter to which you have contributed that best illustrates your values?
- a. As a sitting judge I am not allowed to engage in the active practice of law. While in private practice I often saw citizens appear in court without the assistance of counsel and either volunteered as a friend of the court to assist them or was asked by the court to assist citizens, which shows the trust that the court had in my willingness to assist people in the courtroom.*

Concerning law and policy:

10. What is your position on the death penalty?
- a. As District Court Judges, I do not preside over death penalty cases. In cases over which I preside, I cannot allow my personal opinions on the subject guide my decisions in District Court cases. My job is to apply the law fairly as it exists at the time, uphold the independence and integrity of the judiciary, avoid impropriety and perform the duties of my office impartially and diligently.*
11. What, if anything, should be done to improve access to the courts for people with limited financial means?
- a. To improve access to the courts for people of limited financial means, there has been more consideration given to indigent people as it relates to the waiving of filing fee. Expanding consideration of waiving filing fees would allow greater access to the courts.*
- b. The local law schools provide clinical programs that assist people with limited financial means with representation that improves access to the courts. Funding these clinical programs as well as funding legal aid and public defender offices would provide additional staff attorneys to assist people with limited financial means with obtaining greater access to the court system.*
12. North Carolina incarcerates an extraordinary number of people, including persons convicted of non-violent crimes. Those who are incarcerated are disproportionately people of color. What would you (do you) do in your role as judge to address the issues of mass incarceration and racial bias in the administration of justice?
- a. I am cognizant of the inherent biases involved in judicial system and make a concerted effort to assure that those biases aren't brought into play. I hold all participants to the same standard of truthfulness as do not give weight to one person's testimony over the other simply based on their position.*
- b. To address the issue of mass incarceration, it is my job to have incremental punishment for crimes within the sentencing guidelines established by the legislature.*

If the purposes of sentencing can be accomplished short of incarceration, I believe that the least intrusive means should be implemented first to try and correct the action brought before the court.

13. Would you (do you) assess or strike Failure-to-Appear fees in cases involving traffic offenses? Would you have a bright line rule?

- a. *Historically, I have assessed Failure to Appear fees in cases involving traffic offenses in two circumstances. I would not say that I have a "bright line rule" but I do have a starting point that I established in handling Failure to Appear in traffic court in order to establish some sort of consistency when address the issue.*
 - i. *If the person has had multiple offenses of Failure to Appear in court on the same case. (The rationale behind this starting point is that I acknowledge that sometimes things happen that prevent people from attending court. To not assess fees for the first missed court date attempts to make room for those circumstances. If, after the first missed court date, there are subsequent missed court dates then there is a need for accountability when attending court.)*
 - ii. *If the person has Failed-to-Appear for more than a year, extending back to January 1st of the previous calendar year. (The rationale behind this starting point is that giving citizens a year, or in some cases almost two years depending on when the Failure to Appear occurred, allows for the person to realize that they have missed their court date and take measures to come in to court to address the failure to appear. Within that time, the Department of Motor Vehicles has sent out numerous notifications of the missed court date and the negative effects the missed court date will have on the person's driver's license privilege.)*
- b. *A person is allowed to explain the person's particular circumstance so that consideration can be made in striking the failure to appear fees for good cause shown, beyond these parameters.*
- c. *In my 10 years as a Judge, I cannot recall one instance where I have sentenced someone to jail for their inability to pay a fine or cost. If, however, a person never attends court, there is no opportunity to discuss any financial issues that person may have.*
- d. *With the current state of our economy, I am considering expanding these initial starting points while still accepting explanations for why the failure to appear fee should be stricken beyond any starting points that may be established.*

14. What guidelines would you (do you) use to determine whether pre-trial confinement is appropriate for a defendant?

- a. *The guidelines used in determining whether pre-trial confinement is appropriate are to assure the defendant's presence in court and to protect the citizen of Durham. To accomplish this goal, I must consider the charge(s), the prior record level, the prior*

appearance history, whether the person is already out on some kind of pretrial release, whether the victim has been notified, whether the person is currently on probation, and the person's ties to the community.

15. What is your position on bail? What, if any, changes need to be made to the current bond schedule?
- a. My position on bail is that in some cases, a secured bond is necessary to assure the person's presence in court and to protect the citizen of Durham. There are cases that may not require the posting of bail and the person can be released with a date to report to court.*
 - b. Bail, just like all other court rules, need to periodically be reviewed for modification and updating. I think that all the stake holders need to have an open meeting to discuss the purposes and effectiveness of the bond system to have a collaborative effort in seeing what system of pretrial release would best serve Durham.*
16. What can be done to improve language access for defendants, victims, and witnesses during court proceedings?
- a. I believe that additional funding of the court interpreter program to allow for more than one Spanish speaking interpreter would improve language access for defendants, victims and witnesses during court proceedings. In situations where the primary language being spoken is not Spanish, we utilize the language line early in the process until we can identify what interpreter we may need to secure for future hearings.*
17. What changes, if any, would you make to the local rules of court and why?
- a. Currently, we have local rules for Civil Court, Family Court and Juvenile Court. Periodically, rules need to be reviewed for modification and updating. I think that all the stake holders in whatever particular court that is being addressed need to have an open meeting to discuss the proposed changes to any local rules.*
18. Should judges be appointed or elected in North Carolina? If you believe judges should be appointed, who should appoint them? If you believe judges should be elected, what system should be employed to elect them? Should judicial elections be partisan?
- a. I have been involved in both the appointment process as well as the election process. Having been involved in both processes I appreciate the utility of each process in certain instances. With appointments, if a judge is unable to complete his/her term, the process of local attorneys voting on names to be sent to the Governor for appointment seems to work in that it allows for an election process amongst a group of the candidate's peers who have interacted with the person on a professional level. Once the Governor has appointed a judge to fill the interim term of a vacated office, I believe in the rights of the people to have a voice in electing judges who are entrusted to preside over cases that involve the various aspects of their lives.*
 - b. I don't feel that judicial elections should be partisan because as a Judge, I don't know who is a republican or a democrat when they appear before me with a conflict. I do not decide cases that appear before me based upon party affiliation rather on the law as it exist at the time and the relevant admissible facts of the case.*

19. Should race bias training be mandatory for persons involved in the justice system? What should this training consist of and for whom should it be required? Have you any special training in issues related to racial disparities and equities?

a. I had the opportunity to attend racial bias training and highly recommend attendance for as many people as possible. I cannot speak to what the training should consist of as I am not an expert in subject; I can say that the training I attended involved moderators that discussed the history of racial bias and racial equity and how the establishment of these systems dates back to the founding of our country. There were break-out sessions and interactive exercises aimed at exposing some biases that may exist within systems and people that may not be readily apparent. I think that it is crucially important for people involved in the justice system to have training in that we deal with every segment of the population and a better understanding of people will result in better service to people.

20. How have (or will) you address legislation that requires notice to be given to all impacted governmental agencies before a judge waives costs and fines for a criminal defendant? Under what circumstances should a court waive costs and fines?

a. My job is to apply the law fairly as it exists at the time, uphold the independence and integrity of the judiciary, avoid impropriety and perform the duties of my office impartially and diligently. I think that the Judge, as the trier of fact should be given discretion in determining when to waive costs and fines based upon the information presented to him/her in court.

21. Should data of prosecutors' individual and office-wide juror challenges be collected and published as a method of identifying and neutralizing bias during the peremptory challenge process?

a. As a District Court Judge, we don't conduct criminal jury trials. I do believe that methods used to insure fundamental fairness in the court system will assist in creating and foster public trust of the court system and process.

22. What are the risks and benefits of pre-trial diversion in criminal cases? For what offenses and for which offenders is diversion appropriate? Are their program models you favor?

a. Some risks of pre-trial diversion are the chance of defendant failing to appear in court and the possibility of not assuring the safety of the citizens of Durham, should someone be release too soon after arrest with notifying the victim. The benefits of pre-trial diversion are that it reduces the overall jail population and allows for offenders to be out of jail why awaiting trial on their cases. The offenses and offenders that are appropriate for diversion should be determined on a case by case basis. I don't have a preference of one model over the other as long as whatever model used is effective in assuring the person's presence in court and also protects the citizens of Durham.

23. Yes or No Questions – please indicate your answer the following questions by underlining “YES” or “NO.” If you wish to explain or elaborate your answer to any question, please use no more than 100 words to do so.

- a. Do you support legislation designed to protect gay, lesbian, and transgender people from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation, and access to government processes, benefits, and services? YES NO
- b. Do you support legislation which excuses magistrates, judges, and other government officials from performing their duties because of their religious beliefs? YES NO
- c. Do you support the continuation and expansion of local funding that addresses substance abuse and mental health treatment, including a Drug Treatment Court and Mental Health Court? YES NO
- e. Do you support the expanded use of restorative justice practices in shaping outcomes in criminal cases? YES NO
- f. In questions of pre-trial release, do you support the use of a screening instrument, calibrated to prevent discrimination, to determine substantial risk of flight and danger to the community, as recommended by the Pretrial Justice Institute? YES NO

Your politics

24. How are you registered to vote? Have you ever changed your registration? If you have changed your voter registration, please explain why.

a. I am a registered Democrat and have never changed my registration or party affiliation.

25. Who did you vote for in the 2012 and 2016 presidential and gubernatorial elections? Who did you vote for in the 2014 U. S. Senate election?

a. I have voted along parties lines in the referenced elections.

26. How will you vote if the November ballot contains constitutional amendment referenda in favor of “Marsy’s Law” and the filling of judicial vacancies?

a. I am a proponent of people having their right to voice their opinions on matters that affect them. I don’t believe that the voice of a few should control the actions of all. In court I strive to listen to all sides before rendering a decision in any case that comes before me. In November it is my intent to cast votes consistent with my beliefs.

Judges and judicial candidates in North Carolina are allowed substantial freedom of political speech. PA PAC believes that every question in this questionnaire may be answered fully within the scope of the applicable rules. For more information on the scope of permitted political speech for judicial candidates, we refer you to the December 17, 2015 memorandum of the Judicial Standards Commission on Permitted Political Conduct. You may find it at:

https://www.sog.unc.edu/sites/www.sog.unc.edu/files/course_materials/04%20Political%20Conduct%20Guidance%20for%20Judges%202016.pdf

Again, Thank you. **Please do not forget to provide us with your resume or biographical statement.**

