**PA PAC Questionnaire for**

**North Carolina Appellate Division Candidates – 2020**

**Please return the completed questionnaire along with your resume or biographical statement describing education, work history, community service, and prior political experience as soon as possible, but by January 8 at the latest.**

**You may e-mail your responses to Tom Miller at** **tom-miller1@nc.rr.com** **or you may send a printed copy of your responses to PA PAC c/o Tom Miller 1110 Virginia Avenue, Durham, NC 27705-3262**

**Please note that following the January 8 deadline, the People’s Alliance PAC may publish your responses to this questionnaire and your resume.**

**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. Do not use colors or shading. Please try to confine your responses to no more than 300 words unless another word limit is indicated. Do not feel obliged to exhaust the limit for each question.**

**If you use words or ideas from another person, please attribute your source.**

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire and your willingness**

**to serve the people of North Carolina.**

Candidate’s name: Reuben Young

Court and seat you are running for: Court of Appeals, Seat 7

Address: PO Box 28869 // Raleigh, NC 27611

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**About you:**

1. Please describe how your religious and philosophical beliefs may affect your conduct and decision-making if you are elected.

 As a Christian who believes that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect, I believe a judge should always be fair and patient. Listening and allowing every litigant the right to be heard is a requirement in order for justice to prevail. Every case is associated with a person who is entitled to seek justice under our system. Justice is not a given, so every litigant is entitled to have a fair and impartial hearing/trial. My belief and philosophy allows for fair and impartial decisions.

2. Would you support requiring race equity training for all North Carolina judges? If not, why not? Can you provide an example of your own advocacy for race-equity and diversity?

 Yes. In 2019, I attended racial equity training through the Racial Equity Training Institute. The training resonated with me, especially regarding the preconceived notions that people hold about those that do not look like them. Through my work in the Governor’s office, I advocated for more representation of PoC and women in the judiciary on the bench as well as on boards and commissions.

**About your practice of law:**

2. Please describe your practice as a lawyer. Describe the areas of your practice and your specialties. If, over time, your practice has evolved or changed, describe the changes. Describe your various client bases as a part of your answer.

I have been a prosecutor, defense attorney, and civil litigator. For the last 20 years, I have served as the legal counsel for the Governor, head of a supervisory agency and both a trial and appellate judge.

3. If you have been a member of an appellate division court, please choose a recent decision you wrote for the court which you feel best illustrates your learning, values, skills, outlook, and temperament as a jurist. If the decision is published, you may simply cite it. If the decision you have selected is unpublished, please provide us with a copy. Please explain why you selected the decision and tell us how it demonstrates your particular fitness to hold the judicial office you are seeking.

 No. COA19-471

 State v. Marzouq

 Even though I have a strong prosecutorial background, this case addressed ineffective assistance of counsel and deportation issues. This opinion I believe demonstrates my ability to be objective and fair.

4. If you have not been a member of an appellate division court, please describe your practice, if any, in that division. Please provide us with the citation of an appellate decision in a case in which you advocated as lead attorney for one of the parties. The decision you choose should best illustrate the learning, values, skills, outlook, and temperament you would bring to the court as the holder of the judicial office you seek. If the decision you have chosen is unpublished, please provide us with a copy. You may also provide us with the brief you wrote in that case. Explain why you selected this decision.

 N/A

5. Please describe the nature and extent of any pro bono legal work or other volunteer work you have done which best illustrates your values as a lawyer and as a person.

 Currently, I mentor young lawyers and also serve as a volunteer judge for legal competitions. Other germane work I’ve done includes volunteering on political campaigns, with voter registration efforts, and pro-literacy programs.

6. Have you ever been the subject of a complaint to the North Carolina State Bar or the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission? If the answer is yes, please explain the circumstances and the outcome.

 I do not believe I have but I have been a defendant in cases filed by criminal offenders.

**Concerning law and policy:**

7. Should the North Carolina General Assembly repeal the death penalty?

 It is not within a Judge’s purview to advise the General Assembly regarding repealing laws. The courts’ responsibility is to make sure that the laws are both fairly applied and constitutional.

8. 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 should be done to address the problems of mass incarceration and racial bias in our legal system?

 In my view, the best way to champion change within the system it to apply the law fairly and identify and offer alternatives that address an individual’s needs beyond the criminal or civil conflict that is before the court.

9. Do you think that racial discrimination in the use of peremptory strikes in jury selection is a problem, and, if so, what can be done to address it?

 Yes. More resources should be allocated toward addressing racial and socioeconomic disparities.

10. Should the North Carolina General Assembly should enact legislation designed to protect gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender people from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation, and access to government benefits and services?

 Yes.

11. Is the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* well founded in law?

 Yes.

12. What changes, if any, should be made to North Carolina sentencing laws?

 Judges should be granted more discretion to sentence offenders based on the facts of the individual case.

13. What is your position on appointment versus election of judges? Should judicial elections be partisan?

 I believe judicial elections should return to being publicly financed. Although I was appointed by Gov. Cooper, it is my belief judges should be selected by the people, at the ballot box, based on their legal abilities and experience.

14. What changes, if any, should be made to the composition of the court to which you seek election? What changes, if any, should be made to its jurisdiction?

 Judicial elections should be non-partisan.

15. What changes, if any, should be made to the Rules of Appellate Procedure? How would you change access to the appellate courts?

 I have no opinion to offer.

**Your politics:**

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

 I am and continue to be a life-long Democrat.

*Thank you for completing this questionnaire.*

*Please do not forget to provide us with your resume or biographical statement.*