

Background Information
on
Democratic Candidates
for
Judge of the Civil Court
6th Municipal Court District
New York County

Dear Four Freedoms Democratic Club Members,

Over the last week, candidates for Civil Court in the 6th Municipal Court District were asked to fill out a short survey with basic questions about themselves and their candidacy. They were also invited to submit a one page resume.

The responses from the six candidates who submitted the requested materials by the deadline are attached to this document, unedited, and in the same format that they were received.

Members are asked to read and review the attached information before our meeting on Tuesday, April 26th.

Candidates will be speaking and taking questions at our meeting, and we will have copies of this document available. If you have questions about anyone running, you are encouraged to contact the candidates in advance of the meeting. Candidates have included their phone number and email address, which are summarized on page two. All of the candidates involved have indicated that they would love to speak to any interested member.

Candidates

<p>Susan Avery</p> <p>e: SuziesqNY@yahoo.com p: (917) 345-4937</p> <p>Questionnaire: Page 3 Resume: Page 19</p>	<p>Hilary Gingold</p> <p>e: hilarygingold@gmail.com p: (516) 695-9297</p> <p>Questionnaire: Page 6 Resume: Page 20</p>
<p>Josh Hanshaft</p> <p>e: hanshaft@gmail.com p: (917) 656-8181</p> <p>Questionnaire: Page 9 Resume: Page 21</p>	<p>Susan Hochberg</p> <p>e: shochberg2@gmail.com p: (212) 879-1924</p> <p>Questionnaire: Page 13 Resume: Page 22</p>
<p>Megan McHugh</p> <p>e: mmchugh1234@gmail.com p: (917) 459-6616</p> <p>Questionnaire: Page 15 Resume: Page 23</p>	<p>Leonard Silverman</p> <p>e: nyclesq@nyc.rr.com p: (212) 809-1111</p> <p>Questionnaire: Page 17 Resume: Page 24</p>

Susan F. Avery

QUESTIONNAIRE

Why do you want to be a judge on the Civil Court?

I have served the judicial branch of government for close to seventeen years, and I have demonstrated my commitment to public service for the majority of my career. I have served as an officer of the court, as a private practitioner, and as a principle court attorney in Housing Court, Civil Court and Criminal Court. Currently, I am a Judge of the Housing Part of Civil Court of the City of New York and find the work extremely important and gratifying. As the majority of individuals that appear in Housing Court, as in Civil Court, are self represented, I have numerous opportunities daily, to effectuate change at the ground level and protect those who need protection. As more fully explained below, I have demonstrated my ability to be fair and dignified, as well as my positive work ethic.

Please elaborate on aspects of your professional history that have given you the experience necessary to serve as a judge of the Civil Court.

Currently, I am a Judge of the Housing Part of Civil Court of the City of New York. Immediately prior to my appointment as a Housing Court Judge, I was special counsel in the Administration of Justice Fern A. Fisher, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, where I supervised in the *Volunteer Lawyer for a Day Program* in Civil Court, in consumer debt and housing cases, and assisted supervisors in the Volunteer Lawyer for a Day Program for family/matrimonial and foreclosure cases, prepare educational materials for presentations and public distribution. As a goal of this program is to improve access to justice and alleviate the overwhelming and often unmet legal needs of self-represented litigants, my work in this program provided me with additional sensitivity to the needs of litigants that are unrepresented by counsel, which is often the case in Civil Court.

Additionally, I served the public as a Court Attorney in Civil Court from 1999 until my appointment to the bench. Of note, is, as a Civil Court Court Attorney, beginning in July 2006, I was assigned, to the specialized No-Fault Health Care Provider Motion Part, where typically more than 200 cases appeared on the calendar daily, most of which were disposed of by the end of that same calendar day. In this part, I worked directly with Civil Court Supervising Judges and created rules for this part which were adopted by the bench and bar, and distributed and posted in the courtroom. Notably, pursuant to an Administrative Order issued by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, dated June 4, 2009, nearly 400 cases pending in Queens and the Bronx were consolidated and assigned to the part where I was assigned. In these consolidated cases it was alleged that plaintiffs served duplicate law suits based on the same claims. With my assistance, in less than five months the matters were successfully resolved. Additionally, my positive contributions to this part were formally commended, in writing, as in 2009, I assisted in resolving in excess of 46,000 motions.

Further, I have worked in general Civil Court calendar parts such as: Small Claims, Consumer Debt, Personal Appearance (where at least one party is self represented), Special Term, Commercial Landlord/Tenant and Trial Parts. My responsibilities have included reviewing *ex parte* (one sided) applications, and presenting recommendations as to the merit of the requests, and conferencing and often settling cases. In addition, I was also called upon to conduct substantive legal research and prepare draft decisions; prepare jury verdict sheets and charges; organize and maintain legal files and keep track of submitted matters to ensure timely rendered decisions, and I have sat as a Small Claims Court Arbitrator. As a result, I am familiar with the cases and issues presented in the Civil Court and the needs of the lawyers and litigants that appear in the Civil Court. Additionally, I was personally selected to be a member of a panel to educate the public on the Small Claims Part of the Civil Court and its procedures.

On August 21, 2000, I was awarded a "Certificate of Commendation" signed by Justice Jonathan Lippman, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals and Judge Ann Pfau, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, for conceptualizing a time and money saving form which was commended for its ability to improve Civil Court operations. I also developed similar forms for review of non-military affidavits, default judgment applications and the review of No-Fault Health Care Provider Part summary judgment motions, which were distributed and used in the Civil Court. And as a Civil Court Court Attorney, I was a staff writer for "Inside Civil Court" (Civil Court in-house newsletter).

Prior to commencing my public service career, I practiced law in the private sector. Knowing the day to day the challenges of private practice, affords me the sensitivity and appreciation to the lawyers that appear before me, which better enables me to serve the people that seek justice daily.

Why are you running in the sixth district?

The sixth judicial district is my home district and has so been for more than twenty years. It would be an honor for me to serve as a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York, as a representative of my home district.

What do you think is the most important characteristic necessary for a judge of the Civil Court? And How do you have that characteristic?

The most important characteristic necessary for any judge, is to treat everyone fairly and with dignity. As a judge of the Housing Part of the Civil Court, I have demonstrated that characteristic by the following decisions that I have authored:

Huggins v Randolph & Richmond, 45 Misc3d 521 (Civ Ct Kings County [2014]), which appeared on page one of the New York Law Journal (7/14/2014), and has been cited to support the proposition that although "New York does not have a statute recognizing an independent cause of action predicated upon an allegation of elder abuse, courts, as part of the community, need not wait for the enactment of such a statute and

must not allow themselves to be made the instrument of a wrong, and, thus, it is incumbent upon judges and court personnel to recognize the signs of possible elder abuse and act to protect society's vulnerable seniors”

Intervale Ave Assoc v Donald, et al, 38 Misc3d 1221(A) (Civ Ct Bronx County [2013]), where the dissent in the Appellate Term, First Department, cited this decision for the proposition that “... in cases such as residential foreclosures, no-fault insurance, consumer debt (such as the within case), as well as Housing Court residential eviction proceedings, similar robo-signed [affidavits are improper]”

2132 Presidential Ass, LLC v Carrasquillo, 39 Misc3d 756 (Civ Ct Bronx County [2013]) cited by the dissent in the Appellate Term, First Department, to support that “... affidavit [which] raise[] ‘red flags’ and reveal[] ... significant irregularities ... require[] rejection by the court below. ... [as it] resembled [a] ‘robo-signed’ affidavit, one prepared in advance without knowledge of who would be the signatory, of which courts have consistently demonstrated an intolerance.....”

308 Hull LLC v Castellani, 39 Misc3d 1234 (Civ Ct Bronx County [2013]) finding that although the rent controlled tenants failed to appear in the proceeding, the landlord failed to meet its burden and the proceeding was dismissed

332 EDC Realty Corp v Barlow, 43 Misc3d 1207(A) (Civ Ct Kings County [2014]) where I ordered the landlord to accept \$13,250 in bank checks and a \$1 bill and vacated a stipulation of settlement and dismissed the case, which prevented the tenant from being evicted.

Please briefly explain what your judicial philosophy would be as a member of the bench.

My philosophy on the bench has been, and will continue to be, to review each case that comes before me, individually, and apply the facts of each case to the laws that apply, with fairness and compassion. And it is my privilege, as a judge, to represent our third branch of government, compassionately, effectively and with the dignity that the drafters of our constitution envisioned.

HILARY GINGOLD
Judicial Survey Responses – 6th District

Thank you for your interest in the Four Freedoms Democratic Club's endorsement for the Civil Court vacancy in the Sixth Judicial District of Manhattan! Please answer the following questions within the allotted word limits and we will distribute your answers to the members of the club. Any answers in excess of the word limit will be cut off at the last allowable word. These are limits, not suggestions; you may submit answers well under the word limit if you believe that would allow you to give a full answer.

Biographical Information

Name: Hilary Gingold

Email address (so that club members can contact you for more information):
hilarygingold@gmail.com

Phone number (so that club members can contact you for more information):
516-695-9297

Survey

Question 1 (250 words): Why do you want to be a judge on the Civil Court?

Throughout my career I have been actively involved in providing better access to justice, whether in private practice, in the not-for-profit arena, or, in the court system. I am committed to the basic premise that every individual who comes through the court house doors is entitled to be heard. The best part of being a judge is knowing that at the end of the day, I will have made a difference. I look forward to the opportunity to utilize the skills I employ with my current Judge, in a courtroom over which I will preside, guiding the outcome of matters whether they be small business disputes or taking the necessary steps to protect victims. My experience as a Principal Law Clerk has honed my skills in reaching fair and impartial outcomes for litigants, whether represented by counsel or appearing pro se. Understanding the particular issues and applying the relevant law to resolve a matter quickly and efficiently are essential to being a jurist. Every day I draft decisions, impacting how people work and function. I have the judicial temperament, developed through years of appearing in front of judges, and working beside judges, to ensure that litigants get what they are entitled to, the fair administration of justice. I truly enjoy being an attorney. I believe in the law. It may be imperfect, but I believe that my time and skills as an attorney can be best utilized by my ascension to the bench.

Question 2 (250 words): Please elaborate on aspects of your professional history that have given you the experience necessary to serve as a judge on the Civil Court.

I dedicate countless hours volunteering within the legal community working to bridge the gap between the bench and bar. I have worked my way up the ranks of local and state bar

HILARY GINGOLD

Judicial Survey Responses – 6th District

associations, working to increase diversity in the participation of attorneys. I participate in continuing legal education above and beyond the minimum, studying the relevant areas of law that a Civil Court Judge deals with on a daily basis. I also teach litigation skills workshops to practitioners with the goal of raising the bar in the practice of law.

I have authored many decisions that have been affirmed, as a matter of law by the Appellate Division, and in so doing, have effectively made law that govern areas such as labor law, malpractice, foreclosure, and real estate, to name a few. I am responsible for sifting through complex agreements and hours of depositions, for the purpose of determining issues of fact for trial and rulings as a matter of law. When jurors sit in the box, there are many issues of law that must be ruled on first before they can render a decision. Every jury is given a series of instructions that guide their conduct and assist in the final determination. It is my job to facilitate the form in which those charges should be given, and even in what order. I prepare the verdict sheets that the jurors will use in reaching a verdict. Each of these tasks requires mastery of the law and civil procedure.

Question 3 (100 words): Why are you running in the Sixth District?

I am running in the Sixth District because this is where I reside, where my family has made our home and where I hope to always live. I am your neighbor, and I have a vested interest in seeing that our community has the best representation possible in the judicial system. I believe that I have a lot to offer as a jurist. I am always willing to listen, to advocate for the underserved and to protect the civil liberties of those in our community. I look forward to representing the Sixth District, with pride and with sound reasoning.

Question 4 (250 words): What do you think is the most important personal characteristic necessary for a judge on the Civil Court? How do you have that characteristic?

The most important personal characteristic that a judge for the Civil Court is that of objectivity. A judge is not an individual. A judge represents the law. When I draft a decision, I never use the words “I”, “feel”, or “think”. Courts have no emotion, they don’t feel, and they don’t think. That may sound like the antithesis of what most people believe is the legal process in court. However, a good jurist knows that their own opinion, preconceived notions of right or wrong, have no place in the courtroom. It is the facts and the application of the law that are the crux of the judicial system. We hear the phrases “in the interest of justice” or “in the court’s discretion” but those statements are not euphemisms for a judge’s personal opinion, but rather, an opinion based on fact, and coupled with the law, require a determination that weigh in favor of one party or another. I spend my time at work constantly balancing the scale, so that justice can be done, without regard to my own personal thoughts. It is one of the reasons why I never address the attorneys who appear before the court by name, but rather, as counselor. I take pride in the objective administration of the law. That objectivity allows for litigants to be heard, resulting in a fair outcome.

Question 5 (250 words): Please briefly explain what your judicial philosophy would be as a member of the bench.

HILARY GINGOLD
Judicial Survey Responses – 6th District

I would continue my philosophy as it has developed over the last thirty years of my career. As a member of the bench, it would be my goal to continue to foster the relationship between the bench and the bar. The legal community does not operate in a vacuum. Without ongoing dialogue between jurists and counsel, the profession will stagnate, and representation of those most in need will go unserved. I believe in the importance of ongoing pro bono activity by all attorneys, including the judiciary, as promulgated by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for New York.

As a judge, I would continue to actively pursue my education, following trends in the law as it dovetails with changes in our world. Although judges are guided by the law as written in books, I believe that the interpretation of the law must be modified as the world changes. Laws are written to adjust to the changing values and needs of the people they were originally designed to govern. I am open to that change, and I am not afraid to make the determinations that will become necessary to adapt to the ever-changing needs of our society.

Question 6 (500 words) (optional): Use this space to share any other relevant information that you believe makes you a strong candidate for this position

I am not a particularly political person. I believe in the legal system, warts and all. I am optimistic about the future of this country, and of my fellow New Yorkers in particular. I bring objectivity, a willingness to listen, and a desire to serve the public. I take great satisfaction in helping others. I respect the law and I enjoy the challenges that face the judiciary in the administration of the law. I am honored to have had the opportunity to interpret the law, and in so doing, modify and or confirm the application of the law, as affirmed by higher jurisdictions. Critical to the role of being a judge is the ability to handle emergency applications, deal with fractious litigants and deal with extremely stressful situations, all while maintaining a cool and calm appearance. I deal with high levels of stress in my job, with aplomb and with professionalism. My ongoing commitment to the practice of law, to serving the public and working with my colleagues are the qualities I believe make me a unique and highly qualified candidate for Civil Court Judge.

Josh E. Hanshaft

Survey

Question 1

I want to be a Civil Court judge in New York City because it is the culmination and natural progression of my life's work. Born in New York City, I was raised by parents who were committed to helping others less fortunate than themselves. My mother was the Director of United Cerebral Palsy of New York City for over forty years. My father was a social worker for the New York City Department of Social Services, working mostly with families and children dealing with a range of issues involving abuse and neglect. This upbringing instilled in me a strong appreciation of the need to give back to the citizens of New York City. In that regard, I have worked with organizations that strive to promote the interests of those individuals who face overwhelming adversity and/or the "voices" of the underrepresented.

When choosing a career, the natural progression for me was to continue in my parents' tradition of human service, pursuing a path as a public interest attorney with a focus on helping others through some of their most trying times in their lives. My career as a criminal attorney, a Hearing Officer and legislative attorney have equipped me to be a most qualified member of the judiciary. I devoted my entire career to public service and I wish to continue in that tradition while continuing to challenge myself by embarking on this new endeavor.

Question 2

The experiences I have had provide a solid foundation for a judicial career. During my tenure as a criminal attorney, both as an Assistant District Attorney and a defense counsel, I acquired a skill set that enables me to listen to and sort out complicated fact patterns with an ability to arrive at a just resolution in an expeditious manner. Through my experiences, I have learned how to navigate emotionally charged situations while being able to maintain a sense of calm and order. Although I have investigated and

Josh E. Hanshaft

tried almost every classification of offense, it was my working as an investigative attorney where I focused primarily on complex schemes of corruption that required an understanding and application of civil statutes, including contract law and public health law to successfully litigate.

My work as a Hearing Officer for the ECB of New York City provided me the opportunity to view the justice system from a different perspective in that I was a neutral party. Finally, as a Legislative Attorney with the City Council, I analyze issues concerning city government and recommend legislative changes. This work directly impacts the criminal and civil framework of New York. I am proud of my work on the passage of the Civil Justice Coordinator Bill. My work on this bill gave me a greater perspective of the inequities facing indigent New Yorkers in areas of law, including immigration, housing and family law, and the need to reform our judicial process to meet those needs.

Question 3

Although my family and I enjoy the many riches of this city, my life greatly revolves around the businesses, schools, doctors and social establishments that are located in the Sixth Judicial District. This area has been part of my community since I moved to the East Side of Manhattan fifteen years ago and I am deeply enmeshed in its surroundings. My husband and I are active participants in our child's education and activities and therefore we are extremely grateful for the many benefits the neighborhood provides. For example, P.S. 77, my daughter's school is just one of the many outstanding schools that are located within the district.

Question 4

The most important personal characteristics for a judge is to have a solid judicial temperament where upon one can impose a sense of understanding and calm, yet maintain a sense of control of the courtroom to ensure judicial fairness. It is important for a judge to communicate to the litigants that they will be given an opportunity to be

heard, instilling in them a comfort level that they will be listened to and understood. Too often non-attorney parties feel alienated from the system and it is the ultimate job of the judge to impart a sense of confidence so that the public feels a security in, and a respect for the judicial system.

I have acquired that skill set due to the unique challenges and obstacles I faced growing up. The adversity I faced made me keenly aware of how people are often made to feel less than equal to others, and I have always strived in both my personal and professional life to take the time to learn about whom a person really is. I have routinely tried to make people feel important, secured and listened to. I believe this attribute will undoubtedly assist me if I am fortunate to become a member of the New York Judiciary.

Question 5

While I feel that judicial philosophy is a fluid concept, I would generally say that I would apply the laws as they are written taking into account the legislative intent and public sentiment. It is my belief that laws are put into place by legislatures that are voted in by the public and accordingly reflect their societal beliefs. The legislature is entrusted with enacted the laws that embody that public's belief system. The role of the judiciary is to fairly and equitably uphold those laws or determine their constitutionality.

Question 6

Lastly, I think it is important, when considering my candidacy for Civil Court, to understand my background and the profound factors affecting my youth that shaped my personality and impacted my outlook as an adult. As a young child, I realized that I was gay and spent most of my teenage years and early twenties, struggling to keep my sexuality hidden. As I grew in my personal life and as I gained more confidence with myself, I gradually was able to share my life with others in a more open and honest manner. Although the personal difficulties I endured as a child are no longer the struggle they once were, I continue to frequently face stereotypes and predeterminations about my

family. I approach these challenges by continuing to engage those people, offer insight and education and always try to be fair in my dealings with them.

Finally, as an adult I learned that my grandfather was Cuban, a fact that was hidden from me by my grandmother. In some respects, I must believe that this was hidden due to negative stereotypes placed on people of Hispanic backgrounds and the disparate treatment and lack of acceptance of Latinos in American society. This information reinforced my awareness of the challenges still facing immigrant communities and serves as a reminder of what my role could be in the judiciary --- to ensure that every member of the City of New York is confident that they have equal access to justice.

My growth as an individual as a result of this adversity, coupled with my extensive legal expertise, makes me an asset to the legal system. I know that as a judge, I would impart a sense of fairness and understanding necessary for parties to be heard, and feel that their lives and situations matter and that they are an active and equal participant in the legal system.

Name: Susan J. Hochberg

Email address: shochberg2@gmail.com

Phone number: (917) 797-8214

Survey

Question 1 (250 words): Why do you want to be a judge on the Civil Court?

I want to be a judge because I feel passionate about helping people. As a litigator for almost 24 years, I have been able to take an active role in helping to resolve over a thousand disputes. As a judge, I would have the opportunity to help more people since a judge may be called upon to resolve over a thousand disputes in a single year. I take pride in my ability to compassionately handle my cases, but attorneys answer to clients - whether an agency, an individual or a company - while judges answer to their conscience and can ensure that every case reaches a fair and just result.

Question 2 (250 words): Please elaborate on aspects of your professional history that have given you the experience necessary to serve as a judge on the Civil Court?

I have devoted my career to public service. Having represented the Administration for Children's Services ("ACS") in the New York City Family Court for twelve years and at OATH administrative proceedings for twelve years, I developed a keen appreciation for a judge's role in these proceedings and the effect a judge has on the lives of the people who come before the court. I believe that my background reflects a diverse and well-balanced blend of experience in public service and community and civic involvement. My range of legal experience emphasizes my dedication to being an effective public servant, and has significantly prepared me for service in Civil Court, which has justly and appropriately been referred to as "the people's court." One of the most important skills I have developed at ACS is my ability to resolve cases and negotiate settlements. Settling cases allows all parties to take ownership of the outcome of the case and be able to move forward with their lives with a sense of resolution that benefits all parties involved in a given lawsuit.

As a Civil Court Small Claims Arbitrator since 2009, I have gained crucial experience in the areas of adjudication and assisting in cases involving people from many different backgrounds, including many individuals who lacked the ability to retain legal representation.

Question 3 (100 words): Why are you running in the Sixth District?

I have a deep connection to the Sixth District, as it was my home for 22 years. I understand the unique desires of voters in this district, as after living for decades in the center of the district, I moved just north of its northern border. This year, we are going to elect a judge for the Upper East Side and East Harlem, and I feel that my candidacy is stronger in neighborhoods I consider home than it would be anywhere else.

Question 4 (250 words): What do you think is the most important personal characteristic necessary for a judge on the Civil Court? How do you have that characteristic?

Empathy. Judicial empathy refers to a way of ruling on cases in which a judge's personal feelings toward those involved affect how the judge decides the case. Implicitly required in judicial empathy is not only an understanding of the litigant's mental state but also a showing of identification with the litigant. This requires the judge to understand the demographic background of everyone involved in the case. Through my work at ACS, I have developed a deep understanding of the everyday issues facing New Yorkers from different cultures, backgrounds and socio economic standing. I understand the affect that my decisions would have because for twenty-four years I have had to make hard decisions that affect people's jobs and their children.

Question 5 (250 words): Please briefly what your judicial philosophy would be as a member of the bench? My judicial philosophy is liberal, as opposed to conservative or moderate. I am in support of laws that work toward a progressive spectrum of ideas, such as civil rights, personal choice, and the separation of church and state. Most of my civic engagement has been in support of the individual's rights to vote and the rights of workers.

Question 6 (500 words)(optional): Use this space to share any relevant information that you believe makes you a strong candidate for this position.

When I helped to found the Four Freedoms Democratic Club in 2014, I made sure the quality of our judiciary was an early focus in what the club worked towards.

Our first board and first slate of Judicial Delegates had very few lawyers. While serving as our first Vice President, I was able share my knowledge of the traits that a Judge needed to possess, my understanding of the legal system, and my years of involvement with the quite complicated process by which Judges are elected. This was invaluable to our members as they made educated decisions on who they would support for judicial positions.

For the last ten years I have served as a judicial delegate or alternate in our district. I'm proud to have played a role in electing qualified judges in the past, and today, I hope you see me as our best choice for Judge of the Civil Court for the Sixth Municipal Court District.



Four Freedoms Democratic Club

Thank you for your interest in the Four Freedoms Democratic Club's endorsement for the Civil Court vacancy in the Sixth Judicial District of Manhattan! Please answer the following questions within the allotted word limits and we will distribute your answers to the members of the club. Any answers in excess of the word limit will be cut off at the last allowable word. These are limits, not suggestions; you may submit answers well under the word limit if you believe that would allow you to give a full answer.

Biographical Information

Name: Megan McHugh

Email address (so that club members can contact you for more information):
mmchugh1234@gmail.com

Phone number (so that club members can contact you for more information): 9174596616

Survey

Question 1 (250 words): Why do you want to be a judge on the Civil Court?

Public Service. I have worked in public service my entire career (16 years) and I find great joy in the work I do. I have also served on Community Board 1 since 2008 to further pursue my interest in public service. In addition to my interest and my experience, I believe I also possess the necessary characteristics to be a good judge on the Civil Court including sensitivity, temperament, and self-discipline. I would find great joy and satisfaction if given the opportunity to serve as a judge on the Civil Court.

Question 2 (250 words): Please elaborate on aspects of your professional history that have given you the experience necessary to serve as a judge on the Civil Court.

I have worked in the judiciary as the Principal Law Clerk to Hon. Richard B. Lowe III for 16 years. My experience has been very diverse during this tenure as my assignments have included managing large caseloads in the Motor Vehicle Part, handling Article 81 guardianships, resolving extremely complex issues in the Commercial Division, and working at an appellate level on landlord/tenant, criminal, and civil matters. Judge Lowe uses me as his law clerk to a greater extent than most so I have handled nearly every aspect of the work required of a justice on the bench. For sixteen years I have also been drafting advisory opinions for the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics and I also work with the Franklin H. Williams Commission on Minorities whose purpose is to ensure equal treatment among persons of color in the court system.

Question 3 (100 words): Why are you running in the Sixth District?



Four Freedoms Democratic Club

I believe I have a lot to offer the residents of the Sixth District if given the opportunity to serve them. My experience has been such that, if elected, I can almost hit the ground running upon taking the bench. I believe I possess the experience and characteristics that make a good judge and the residents of the Sixth District would be proud to have me represent them if elected.

Question 4 (250 words): What do you think is the most important personal characteristic necessary for a judge on the Civil Court? How do you have that characteristic?

It is too difficult to name just one characteristic. Becoming a judge is a difficult endeavor for good reason because it takes a person who strongly possesses many personal characteristics. In addition to being able to apply the law, a good judge shows temperament, self-discipline, sensitivity, and integrity. I believe my reputation among members of the bar reflects that I possess these characteristics. Furthermore, I have spent 16 years as the principal law clerk to Justice Lowe whose own reputation is one of whom demands the highest personal character from those in his courtroom.

Question 5 (250 words): Please briefly explain what your judicial philosophy would be as a member of the bench.

The law is grounded in two things: logic and fairness. As a judge, these are the two principles I will use while guided by the roadmaps given to a judge through case law, statutes, and other precedent. I believe this philosophy will allow me to reach the correct, fair, and justiciable result.

Question 6 (500 words) (optional): Use this space to share any other relevant information that you believe makes you a strong candidate for this position.

I have spent my entire my career in the court system observing and learning from some of the very best judges and litigators. It has allowed me to develop a sensitivity to the needs of persons of diverse backgrounds and an ability to see that all who come before me feel their claims were treated with fairness. My experience in the court system has been diverse and often times demanded I quickly learn areas of law I had never before practiced. Each time I successfully and quickly mastered these new territories. This experience gives me confidence that I can be entrusted to any assignment I may be given as a Civil Court judge. I feel at this moment in time I am ready to go even further in my career and step forward as a judge who will better my community in such a way that each and every litigant will receive equal justice in her courtroom.



Four Freedoms Democratic Club

Thank you for your interest in the Four Freedoms Democratic Club's endorsement for the Civil Court vacancy in the Sixth Judicial District of Manhattan! Please answer the following questions within the allotted word limits and we will distribute your answers to the members of the club. Any answers in excess of the word limit will be cut off at the last allowable word. These are limits, not suggestions; you may submit answers well under the word limit if you believe that would allow you to give a full answer.

Biographical Information

Name: **Leonard Silverman**

Email address (so that club members can contact you for more information): **nycsq@nyc.rr.com**

Phone number (so that club members can contact you for more information): **212-809-1111**
(Business)

Survey

Question 1 (250 words): Why do you want to be a judge on the Civil Court? **Based upon my life and professional experiences I can think of no better way to passionately continue to serve my community than to be a Civil Court judge.**

Question 2 (250 words): Please elaborate on aspects of your professional history that have given you the experience necessary to serve as a judge on the Civil Court.

The very first time I entered a courtroom as an admitted attorney was to represent a client in New York County Civil Court over 24 years ago. In the years since that first court appearance I have handled thousands of cases representing clients as both plaintiffs and defendants in New York and Federal Courts.

My experience has not been limited to one particular practice area. I have experience involving the same types of cases handled in New York City Civil Court, including experience in the area of Labor Law, employment law, personal injury, legal, accounting, dental and medical malpractice, New York No Fault and contract disputes. I first served as a New York County Civil Court Small Claims arbitrator in 1997 (my first year eligible). In 1997 I was honored by the NY County Civil Court for my service as an arbitrator. I have represented clients at pro bono legal clinics in both the Upper East Side and in Harlem in housing issues. I have also tried 36 cases to jury verdict and participated in over a hundred jury trials. I have personally settled hundreds of cases both in Civil and Supreme Court.

I am a firm believer in alternative dispute resolution having participated in hundreds of mediations and arbitrations. I have lectured on various legal topics, including depositions for which attendees were given CLE credit. I have also written published articles in practice areas of civil litigation.



Four Freedoms

Democratic Club

Question 3 (100 words): **Why are you running in the Sixth District? I have lived (and continue to live) in the district for over 20 years. My three children were born in the district and my two oldest children attend public schools in the district including one where I am serving my second year as a President of the PTA. I have protected residents of the district by representing them at pro bono legal clinics on housing issues. I am a public member of Community Board 8. I have friends (and FFDC members) that live in the district that have offered their support.**

Question 4 (250 words): **What do you think is the most important personal characteristic necessary for a judge on the Civil Court? How do you have that characteristic? There is no “most important” personal characteristic that is either responsive to this type of question or necessary for a judge on the Civil Court. There are multiple qualities and values that are important.**

Question 5 (250 words): **Please briefly explain what your judicial philosophy would be as a member of the bench. I would be happy to answer any questions that any members may have in person. I will not attempt to distill my thoughts on this topic in 250 words or less.**

Question 6 (500 words) (optional): **Use this space to share any other relevant information that you believe makes you a strong candidate for this position.**

I would like to thank you for taking the time to review this survey. Despite the questions asked, no survey can encapsulate one’s entire legal career or answer all of the questions that you might have.

I would have liked to have attended the FFDC forum but as I previously advised the organizers, I will be out of the country with my family. The forum was scheduled during a time when NY City Public students are off for spring break. It is also the Passover week.

I first joined the FFDC as a member soon after it was founded. Although I have actively served as an officer of the Lex Club, I would request your support. At the Lex Club, I have spoken out about “awarding” endorsements to candidates who are friends or those who are politically or professionally connected with club leadership.

I joined the FFDC because I believed that it represented a new club that would be dedicated to reform and political transparency. I believed that the club’s leadership had enthusiasm and would go about setting new standards for change. Although club leadership has already publically repudiated the Sixth District Independent Screening Panel and taken active roles in the campaign of another candidate I hope you will support me. I truly believe in the values of independence, transparency and reform. When choosing a judge nothing can be more important than to select the most qualified candidate and to maintain the integrity of the judicial selection process.

Susan F. Avery
332 East 84 Street, 6B
New York, NY 10028
SuziesqNY@yahoo.com
(917) 345-4937

Employment History	Dates
<u>Judicial Experience</u>	
A) State of New York, Unified Court System	8/99-Present
Civil Court of the City of New York Housing Part Judge	
a) Civil Court, Housing, Kings County 141 Livingston Street, New York, NY 11201	06/13-Present
b) Civil Court, Housing, Bronx County 1118 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10456	11/11-06/13
c) Civil Court, Housing, Kings County 171 Livingston Street, New York, NY 10013	10/11-11/11
<u>Court Attorney Experience</u>	
Civil Court of the City of New York Court Attorney	
d) Civil Court, New York County 111 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013	3/10-10/11 1/06-5/09
e) Civil Court, Queens County 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435	7/06-3/10
f) Criminal Court, New York County 100 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013	1/05-12/05
g) Civil Court, Bronx County 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451	1/04-12/04
h) Housing Part of the Civil Court, Bronx County 1118 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10456	4/03-12/03
i) Housing Part of the Civil Court, New York County 111 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013	8/99-4/03
<u>Private Practice Experience</u>	
B) Weissman & Weissman, LLP 299 Broadway, New York, NY 10007	7/97-7/99
C) Benenson Funding Corporation 445 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022	1994-6/97
D) Self 332 East 84 Street, New York, NY 10028	12/92-1994

Education

New York Law School	49 Worth Street, New York, NY	8/88 - 5/91
Hofstra University	Hempstead, NY	8/85 - 5/88
Kingsborough Community College	Oriental Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY	5/83 - 5/85

Community Activities include:

American Softball League, I assist physically and mentally challenged adults, ranging in age from 15 to 72, hit soft balls, run bases and socialize with each other and other volunteers, and was given the honor of “tossing the first pitch;” at their 2015 all star game

Dorot, I visit with and deliver food packages several times a year, to senior citizens

Admitted to practice law in the State of New York and the United States Supreme Court

HILARY GINGOLD, ESQ.
6th Municipal Court District Judicial Candidate
Condensed Resume

WORK EXPERIENCE

January 2011 – Present / Principal Law Clerk

(Hon. Frederick D.R. Sampson/Hon. Darrell L. Gavrin/Hon. Sidney F. Strauss)

New York State Civil Supreme Court, Queens County

- Research and analyze unique, complex, and sensitive legal issues/questions of law for Supreme Court Judge
- Responsible for drafting opinions, decisions, orders, jury charges, and verdict sheets, correspondence and other memorandum
- Conduct all discovery, pre-trial, trial and settlement conferences
- Confer with and advise the Judge on legal issues

June 2010 – January 2011 / Foreclosure Training Supervisor

Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. / Queens County Bar Association

- Monitor standards of representation and client service
- Develop strategies that impact state litigation
- Oversee pro bono initiatives
- Engage in outreach to community-based organizations regarding foreclosure
- Engage in policy making and advocacy efforts on behalf of clients

July 2009 – July 2010 / Senior Attorney

Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.

EDUCATION

St. John's University School of Law - June 1985

- St. John's Law Review / Dean's List
- St. Thomas More Institute for Legal Research

Adelphi University School of Social Work

- BSW, June 1982
- Honors: Magna Cum Laude; Dean's List

BAR ADMISSION

- New York State 1986
- Supreme Court of the United States 1993
- United States Court of Appeals – Federal Circuit 1993
- United States Court of Military Appeals 1993
- United States Court of Federal Claims 1993

AWARDS & OTHER

- Fall 2014 CLE Moderator/Instructor-Bridge The Gap, Practice & Procedure
- March 2012 CLE Instructor-Queens County Bar Association-Motion Practice
- May 2010 - New York State Bar Association President's Award for Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award Representing the 11th District of New York State
- May 2010 - Queens Bar Association Honor Roll as Pro Bono Attorney Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.
- March 2010 - Participated in the Mayoral Press Conference announcing the New York City Legal Service Initiative
- March 2010 - Panelist in Queens Bar Association/Empire Justice Center Joint CLE Program: Representing Homeowners at Mandatory Settlement Conference

MEMBERSHIPS

- Queens County Bar Association (Vice-President, Secretary, Executive Board of Managers – 2014 to Present)
- New York State Bar Association (State Delegate – 2016 to Present)
- Queens County Women's Bar Association (Board Member – 2014 to Present)
- Brandeis Lawyers Association (Vice-President, Executive Board Member, Co-Chair Scholarship Fund, Financial Secretary – 2012 - Present)
- Network of Bar Leaders (Treasurer, Board Member, Delegate – 2013 to Present)
- Lawyer Secretaries Association of The City of New York (Vice President, Board Member – 2011 to 2014)

JOSH E. HANSHAFT

100 United Nations Plaza, Apt. 19E, New York, NY 10017
(917) 656-8181 hanshaft@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

New York City Council, New York, N.Y. – September 2014 – present

Legislative Attorney, Governmental Affairs Division - Counsel to two Committees: *Courts and Legal Services*, and *Oversight and Investigation*. As counsel, my duties include drafting legislation, preparing briefs and committee reports, and assisting Council Members in preparing and ensuring the proper administration of hearings on bills and oversight topics. I am responsible to advise each Council Member, including the Speaker of the Council, on matters which include legislative history, proposed legislations' societal impact, bill's budgetary constraints and significance, and negotiating bills on behalf of the Council with the Mayoral administration. I regularly participate in meetings with the Office of Court Administration (OCA), legal service providers, legal advocates and interested stakeholders to gather information regarding significant legal issues that affect the residents of New York City.

Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, New York, N.Y. – September 2014 - October 2014

Hearing Officer - Environmental Control Board (ECB) - Presided over cases primarily in the areas of public health, safety and the environment. As a Hearing Officer, I conducted administrative hearings, examined witnesses, made findings of fact, examined and considered issue of admissibility of evidence, evaluated witness credibility and issued written decisions.

Law Offices of Josh Hanshaft, New York, N.Y. - January 2014 – September 2014

Sole Practitioner specializing in Criminal Defense, Landlord/Tenant and Wills, Trust and Estate. Primarily a litigation practice with a focus on State and Federal Criminal Defense. Counsel clients on their legal rights within the criminal justice system.

Kings County District Attorney's Office, Brooklyn, N.Y. – January 1996 to December 2013

Assistant District Attorney – Prosecuted and investigated well over 500 cases. Conducted trials in approximately 20+ cases. Presented greater than 300 cases to the Grand Jury. Researched and drafted pleadings, warrants, memorandums. Supervised hundreds of less experienced attorneys and interns. Oversaw complex investigations conducted by agency detectives and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

Highlights:

- Investigated and prosecuted two individuals in a high-profile hate crime homicide of an Ecuadoran man who was perceived to be gay.
- Led a three year, multi-jurisdiction investigation utilizing the Organized Crime Control Act to prosecute a multi-state criminal enterprise involving the illegal harvesting of diseased human tissue from hundreds of cadavers for transplant in human beings worldwide.

Law Offices of Gutman, Mintz, Baker and Sonnenfeldt, New Hyde Park, N.Y. - August 1995 to January 1996

Associate - Managed real estate and housing matters in the New York City Housing Court from inception of case through settlement or trial. I also negotiated with opposing counsel and drafted settlement stipulations.

SUSAN J. HOCHBERG
245 East 124th Street Apt. 4J
New York, New York 10038
(212) 879-1924

EMPLOYMENT:

May 1992 - Present - Administration for Children's Services:

May 2004 to Present - Office of General Counsel, Employment Law Unit, Senior Trial Attorney

Investigate, draft pleadings, and prosecute matters involving Employee Discipline and violations of Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter brought pursuant to Section 75 of the Civil Service Law, and/or the grievance procedures under various Unions' Collective Bargaining Agreements ("CBA"); draft pleadings and litigate matters pursuant to Section 72 of the Civil Service Law, to determine whether an employee is medically or psychologically fit to work; and litigate disciplinary cases at either OATH or pursuant to the grievance procedure at the NYC Office of Labor Relations; Defend claims of discrimination filed with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, New York State Division of Human Rights, and/or the New York City Commission on Human Rights; Supervise attorneys at conferences and Trials at OATH; cover unit for Director and Assistant Director in their absence; review Stipulations of Settlement for the Unit; and training new attorneys on how to review and draft incompetence cases; Liaison to the New York City Law Department for federal and state lawsuits filed against the Agency; and working with the attorneys at the Mayor's Office of Labor Relations at Arbitrations to ensure they present the correct evidence at trial. Interpret the rules and regulations of the Citywide Personnel Rules and Regulations for the Agency's Personnel Department; provide guidance to management as to how to proceed with employee misconduct at the supervisory level; and train newly hired employees on the agency code of conduct as part of the orientation process.

November 1994 to May 2004 – Family Court Legal Services, Foster Care Litigation Unit, Team Leader

Represented the Commissioner in all proceedings in Family Court involving children voluntarily placed into the foster care system; supervised subordinate attorneys, paralegals, interns and clerical staff and trained newly hired attorneys and interns in the Foster Care Litigation Unit; reviewed orders, motions and pleadings being submitted to court drafted by subordinate attorneys; handled and maintained caseload including cases in Family Court and Supreme Court involving children placed voluntarily into the foster care system; screened all referrals for new termination of parental rights cases referred to Manhattan Family Court Unit; assigned cases to attorneys and maintained database; and supervised and trained junior attorneys, paralegals and trial preparation staff; trained attorneys in all Family Court Units throughout New York City on how to present cases in court involving children voluntarily placed into the foster care system.

May 1992 to October 1994 - Division of Legal Services, Termination of Parental Rights Unit, Trial Attorney

Represented the Commissioner in (i) New York Supreme Court on Article 78 proceedings; (ii) Family Court in termination of parental rights proceedings, foster care review hearings and custody matters; and (iii) State Administrative Hearings; handled all aspects of litigation from inception through trial including negotiations and settlements; researched and drafted pleadings, motions, and memoranda on areas involving Social Services Law and Family Law.

PRO BONO:

Civil Court of the City of New York, Small Claims Arbitrator

Manhattan Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office, Advice-only volunteer Attorney

CUNY Citizenship Now!, Advice-only volunteer attorney

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Volunteer Attorney

EDUCATION:

Yeshiva University, Benjamin N. Cardozo School Of Law, New York, New York

Juris Doctor, 1989, *Honors*: Associate Editor, Women's Law Journal

The Hague Academy Of International Law, The Hague, Netherlands, Summer 1988

Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, 1986, *Honors*: Dean's List

SPECIALIZED TRAINING: The Reid Technique of Interviewing and Interrogation, April 2015 & April 2016

BAR ADMISSION: State Bars of New York 1990; Connecticut 1989; U.S. Supreme Court 2007.

BAR ASSOCIATIONS: New York Women's Bar Association, Events Committee; Asian American Bar Association; Jewish Lawyers Guild.

MEGAN MCHUGH
3 Hanover Square, #5B
New York, NY 10004
Phone: 917-459-6616
Email: mmchugh1234@gmail.com

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

New York State Appellate Term, New York, NY 2011 – Present
Honorable Richard B. Lowe III

As Principal Law Clerk to Presiding Justice, assist judge in management of appellate term caseload, including monitoring the age of pending appeals to assure resolution in a timely manner. Research and draft opinions in response to inquiries of sitting judges to the New York State Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics. Through the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities, work to ensure a diverse workforce within the court system by assisting the judge in compiling and processing complaints with regard to the treatment of personnel, litigants, and attorneys within the New York State Court system.

New York State Supreme Court – Commercial Division, New York, NY 2001 – Present
Honorable Richard B. Lowe III

As Principal Law Clerk to Judge, researched and analyzed complicated legal issues. Advised judge on complex commercial litigation and assisted with drafting of uniquely intricate judicial opinions. Managed pre-trial discovery phase of pending litigation and led discovery conferences among litigants. Utilized expert mediation skills to manage commercial litigation caseload. Managed all phases of trials.

New York State Supreme Court – Motor Vehicle Part, New York, NY 1999-2003
Honorable Richard B. Lowe III

EDUCATION

Regent University School of Law, Virginia Beach, VA
Juris Doctor, May 1999
Admitted: New York, September 2000

Saint Vincent College Latrobe, PA
Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, Art History May 1996
Awards: Award for Special Achievement in Art History:
Maintained a 4.0 Grade Average
Activities: Intern; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
New York, NY

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Member, Community Board 1, New York, NY 2008 – Present
Appointed by Manhattan Borough President for four consecutive terms. Serve on Financial

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT & SPECIAL ACHEIVEMENTS

New York County Lawyers Association, Member

New York State Bar Association, Member

Association of Law Secretaries to the Justices of the Supreme and Surrogates' Courts,
Member

Law Secretaries & Law Assistants Collegium, Inc., Member

Women's Bar Association, Member

LEONARD S. SILVERMAN

200 East 78th Street • New York, New York 10021 •

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Morgan Melhuish & Abrutyn , New York, New York Of Counsel	2013-Present
Marshall Conway Wright & Bradley, P.C. , New York, New York Senior Associate	2008-2013
Lester Schwab Katz & Dwyer , New York, New York Senior Associate	2003-2008
Royal & Sun Alliance , New York, New York Senior Trial Attorney	2001-2003
Jacobowitz, Garfinkel & Lesman New York, New York Trial attorney	1999-2001
Silbowitz Garafola Silbowitz & Schatz , New York, New York Trial Attorney	1997-1999
Langan & Levy , New York, New York Staff Attorney	1992-1997

EDUCATION

J.D., St. Johns University School of Law, Jamaica, New York

B.A., (Cum Laude), Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York

Double Major: History and Politics

Honors: Oracle Society, Phi Alpha Theta, Ithaca College Presidents Scholarship

ADMISSIONS

State Bars: New York and North Carolina

Federal Bars: U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of International Trade, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit, U.S. District Courts, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.