



2019 Civil and Surrogate's Court Judicial Candidate Questionnaire
Completed questionnaires will be public documents.

Personal and Employment History	
How long have you lived in New York City? What neighborhoods have you lived in?	I am a native New Yorker, having been raised in Harlem and the Melrose Section of the Bronx. I moved to Bedford-Stuyvesant in 1989 after meeting my wife.
Please list all of your employers and your job titles for the past 10 years.	For the past 10 years I have been a solo practitioner, specializing in general civil law practice, transactional matters focusing on real property, landlord/tenant, bankruptcy, and trusts and estates.
Please list all courts you have appeared in front of as an attorney, and if applicable, all courts you have presided over as a judge, or worked in as an employee.	<p>I have served as an Administrative Judge to the NYC Parking Violations Bureau.</p> <p>I have worked as a Law Assistant to the Hon. Milton Tingling (deceased), Civil Court, New York County and as Law Secretary to the Hon. Randy Jackson, Supreme Court, Kings County.</p> <p>I have appeared in the following courts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NYC Civil Court – all counties within the City of New York 2. Landlord & Tenant Court – all counties except Richmond County 3. NYS Supreme Court – all counties within the City of New York 4. Appellate Division – 1st and 2nd Judicial Department 5. United District Court for the Eastern District of New York 6. United District Court for the Southern District of New York
Please describe the types of clients you have represented in your practice.	In 35 years of practicing law, I have represented a broad cross section of clients, including working and middle income people, as well as small businesses, not for profit organizations, and tenant associations.

<p>If you are running for reelection, please point us to one or two decisions you are most proud of. If not, please point us to one or two cases you litigated that you are most proud of.</p>	<p>As a result of the significant socio-economic disparity in this city, many individuals lack the resources to enforce their rights under the law. I take great pride in providing representation to such individuals to ensure equal access to justice. The case of Ms. T is noteworthy. Ms. T, a Jamaican immigrant, consulted me regarding the separation and impending divorce from, Mr. T, her husband of many years. As a home health care attendant, Ms. T could only afford a small retainer. However, I took the case because I determined that Ms. T had valuable marital rights that would be lost if she did not have a strong advocate. Ms. T's matrimonial action involved significant litigation. Through extensive discovery, I identified assets of her husband, Mr. T, located outside New York State, which had been hidden. The attorneys representing Ms. T's husband were formidable adversaries. They argued that the assets that I had discovered were not marital property, and therefore, Ms. T could not claim these assets. Based on the failure of Mr. T to include these assets as part of the marital estate, I moved for contempt to enforce Ms. T's rights. Ms. T's action was settled for a six figure monetary award, including attorney fees. She was also able to retain the marital residence as part of her settlement. Based on my conviction, commitment and perseverance, Ms. T prevailed. I achieved tremendous personal and professional fulfillment since Ms. T received a just entitlement under the Equitable Distribution Law §263, consistent with its intent.</p>
<p>Personal Values</p>	
<p>Please list any civic, professional, or community-based organizations with which you are a member, volunteer, or otherwise affiliated.</p>	<p>I am a member of Brooklyn Bar Association, New York County Lawyers Association and New York State Trial Lawyers Academy. I participate regularly in "Know Your Rights" forums sponsored by civic groups and churches to educate communities throughout the city about legal issues. Since 2017, I have served as a <i>pro bono</i> attorney in the New York County Lawyers Association's Certificate of Relief from Civil Disabilities Project, which assists formerly incarcerated individuals reintegrate into society. I am a founding member and Deacon of Brooklyn Community Church and am a member of the church's Legal Committee which sponsors an annual Law Day program to encourage</p>

	<p>dialog among members of the bar, bench, and community. For the past 35 years, I have been an active member of the Sports United Borowide Officials Association (Basketball Referee), serving as the organization's legal counsel for over a decade.</p>
<p>Please tell us a story from your professional or personal life about an instance when you were wrong, and how you learned from it.</p>	<p>As a young adult, fresh out of the military and newly installed in college, I thought I knew everything there was to know about life and people. One day, I decided to rent a car and prepaid the rental for one full week. After using it for only three days, I contacted the rental company to get a refund of the remaining advance. When the company refused to refund the difference, I commenced an action in small claims court. Just before the appearance date, a company attorney contacted me by telephone. He indicated that if I sign a waiver document, he would then send me a check for the amount demanded. His suggestion sounded reasonable. Hearing this, my mother advised it was not a good idea to sign such an agreement. Being young and inexperienced, but thinking I knew it all, I disregarded her advice and told the attorney that I would sign. However, I noticed her facial expressions and body language and decided I should seek further input from her. Prior to going to court, she explained to me that it was not wise to discontinue the case in writing, because the company could easily renege on paying since there was no court date. I called back and informed the attorney that I would not sign the waiver, and I would see him at the court appearance. As a result, on the court date, the attorney appeared with the check in hand, and I then signed the discontinuance. I learned that it is wise to seek the input of those with life experience to help one think more practically and logically about life's situations. This personal situation and the lessons of learning, respect and logic has been the foundation of my career as an attorney. I firmly believe that respect for others with different opinions will serve me well as a judge and society as a whole.</p>

<p>Do you think the current makeup of the bench in New York City is representative of the City's residents? If so, in what ways? If not, what, if anything, could and would you do as a judge to make the bench more representative?</p>	<p>The bench should reflect diversity among its members and be representative of the community in which it serves. Race, ethnic, sexual orientation, and gender diversity provide different perspectives and greater understanding on the issues presenting before the court.</p> <p>Mentoring high school and college students of underrepresented groups to pursue careers in the law, is a starting point to remedy this disparity. Too many young people believe that a career in the law is unobtainable due to the lack of exposure and experience. If elected, I would encourage my fellow judges to participate in programs like the "Color of Justice" created by the National Association of Women Judges, where high school girls come together with lawyers and judges to discuss careers in the law.</p> <p>Bar Associations must also play an active role in educating young lawyers about the process to become a judge, the judiciary's role in this society and its relation to the rule of law. As a member of numerous bar associations, I would encourage bar associations to sponsor programs that inform young lawyers about the career track to becoming a judge, counsel about the difference between the elective and appointive process, and educate about the preparing for the bench.</p>
<p>What qualities do you think voters should be looking for in a judge?</p>	<p>Voters should consider candidates who participate in their respective communities. Judges should be role models, exemplifying the best of what it means to be a lawyer and a member of a society as a whole.</p>
<p>Please name one judge, current or past, from any jurisdiction, who you admire, and explain why.</p>	<p>I admire the late Hon. Milton F. Tingling. I worked for Judge Tingling until his death in 1987. Judge Tingling challenged me to be an advocate, to believe in myself and to be respectful of the legal process. He taught me that a good attorney must be able to think out of the box to address issues and effectively engage in problem resolution. Additionally, I also admire the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who by example and deed demonstrated the meaning of scholarship and legal acumen in order to achieve social justice through law.</p>
<p>Your Campaign</p>	
<p>Please list any websites or social</p>	<p>Website:king4kingscounty.com</p>

<p>media pages for your campaign.</p>	<p>Facebook:@king4kingscounty Instagram:kings4kingscounty Twitter:Edking4judge</p>
<p>Please list all members of your campaign staff and their roles. Were any of your staff members or consultants chosen or recommended by officials or staff of the Kings County Democratic Committee? Please indicate that information for each staff member.</p>	<p>Leslie Grandberry – Faith-based Coordinator Celeste Morris – Consultant – Campaign Strategy Carmen Martinez – Community Coordinator Andrew Maloney – Fundraising Chris Miller, BrownMorris Group – Consultant – Lit Development, Message, Strategy Orphadell Williams – Field Director Tamay Whittington – Treasurer – Financial reporting and accounting.</p> <p>I am running for judicial office as an independent candidate. I am not affiliated with the Kings County Democratic Party and have decided to run for this office without its support. All of the above staff and consultants are either longtime relationships or recommended by others who are independent of the party.</p>
<p>Please list any elected officials, political clubs, or any other notable individuals or organizations who have endorsed your campaign.</p>	<p>Hon. Olinike Alaibi, District Leader 57th AD Hon. Robert Cornegy, District Leader 56th AD Hon. Erik Dilan, District Leader 54th AD</p>
<p>Who or what are the major sources of fundraising for your campaign? Are there any types of donors you won't accept donations from, and if so, what types?</p>	<p>Since the rules of judicial candidacies prevent me from specifically knowing who donates to my campaign, I have sought the help of family, colleagues and friends who have reached out to their circles and asked them to give individually, or to host meet and greet fundraisers. I have instructed all concerned that I do not wish to accept money from big money interests and lobbies.</p>
<p>Your Judicial Philosophy</p>	

<p>Why do you want to be a judge?</p>	<p>I want to be a judge to uphold the rule of law in our society with fairness and compassion. During my 35 year legal career, I have witnessed too many examples of how this premise has been abrogated resulting in decisions that are unfair and unjust. As a judge, I want to ensure that the citizens in our society receive a just and fair result when resolving a dispute.</p>
<p>What qualities or experiences have you taken or will you take into account when hiring your judicial employees?</p>	<p>Prospective judicial employees should demonstrate experience, competence in civil law, a desire to work hard, empathy, integrity, and the ability to treat all parties appearing before the court respectfully and fairly. They should be untethered from political entanglements.</p>
<p>What qualities or experiences have you taken or will you take into account when appointing fiduciaries?</p>	<p>All fiduciaries appointed by the court are the custodians of money and property that belong to others. A fiduciary must be a person of integrity, competence and especially free of all political and monetary conflicts in order to properly care for the asset of others. I would only appoint people who have these qualities.</p>
<p>How, if at all, can the courts address issues of institutionalized racism? How, if at all, could and would you address these issues as a judge?</p>	<p>Primarily, the court should be a living example of impartiality. To address systemic racism, courts should continue to encourage dialog among people with disparate interests. By engaging in this manner, people discover that they have more interests and views in common, than differences. Presently, organizations such as Blacks and Jews in Conversation, the Tribune Society, Kings County LGBTQ Committee, have addressed issues such as institutionalized racism, sexism and gender bias, but of course, more is needed.</p> <p>As a judge, I would address issues, litigants, lawyers and court personnel fairly and impartially. Any issues of racial bias would be dealt with expeditiously and affirmatively.</p>
<p>The Judicial Selection Process</p>	
<p>Do you think that the current system of electing Civil and Surrogate's Court judges is transparent and accountable to the voting public? If so, how? If not, how can the system be</p>	<p>I believe that the election process can be improved by having more voter engagement in the judicial selection process. Political party judicial screening committees need to be more diverse and inclusive of attorneys the influence of the party. I think that the creation of voter guides, such as the one New Kings Democrats plans to</p>

improved?	distribute, is a step in the right direction and permits voter education and informed choice when voting.
Would you be willing to publicize the completed questionnaires you submitted to the New York City Bar Association and the Kings County Democratic Committee? If not, why not? If so, please submit these completed questionnaires along with your responses to this questionnaire.	<p>While I did not submit a judicial questionnaire to the Kings County Democratic Committee, I agree to publicize my questionnaire, once completed, to the New York City Bar Association.*</p> <p>*Uniform Judicial Questionnaire is due on or before April 29, 2019</p>

I have reviewed this questionnaire and agree that the responses set forth in this document are accurate:

Candidate Signature: Edmond H. King

Date: 4/26/2019

You must sign this questionnaire! When complete, please e-mail your signed and scanned questionnaire to politics@newkingsdemocrats.com