



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 attended college at New York University from 1999 through 2003, during which time I lived in Lower Manhattan. After I graduated with my bachelor’s degree, I resided in the Union Square area of Manhattan from 2003 to 2004. Thereafter, I resided in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn from 2004 through 2010. I have resided in Flatbush, Brooklyn from 2010 through the present.
Please list all of your employers and your job titles for the past 10 years.	September 2008 – August 2010 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), Honors Associate, Robert L. Doan Honors Program
	September 2010 – September 2011 NYCHA, Staff Attorney, Freedom of Information Law Unit
	September 2011 – June 2017 NYCHA, Staff Attorney, Landlord and Tenant Unit
	June 2017 – Present Crumiller P.C., Senior Associate
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil Court of the City of New York, Bronx County, Housing Part; - Civil Court of the City of New York, Kings County, Housing Part; - Civil Court of the City of New York, New York County, Housing Part; - Civil Court of the City of New York, Queens County, Housing Part; - Harlem Community Justice Center; - Red Hook Community Justice Center; - Supreme Court of the State of New York, Kings County; - Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supreme Court of the State of New York, Queens County
Please describe the types of clients you have represented in your practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a Senior Associate for Crumiller P.C., I represent women who are victims of gender and pregnancy discrimination, and tenants throughout New York City. - As an attorney for NYCHA, I represented the largest landlord in the country in a variety of different cases, largely including Article 78 appeals and landlord/tenant non-payment and holdover proceedings.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I am not running for reelection: - I successfully settled a case involving two plaintiffs, both young women, who were forced into quid pro quo sexual relationships with their supervisor in order to keep their jobs which they desperately needed. The settlement was large enough for both plaintiffs to pursue careers that they previously did not have the financial wherewithal to pursue. - I successfully settled a case involving an adoptive mother who was denied maternity leave exclusively on the basis that she was an adoptive parent. I successfully negotiated an extended paid maternity leave.
Personal Values	
Please list any civic, professional, or community-based organizations with which you are a member, volunteer, or otherwise affiliated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shirley Chisholm Democratic Club, Member, 2019 - New Kings Democrats (Parents Group), Participant, 2018 - Present - Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, Member, 2018 - Present - Ditmas Art, Co-Founder, 2017 - Present - Ditmas Civic, Member, 2017 - Present - Brooklyn Young Democrats, Member Emeritus, 2017 - Present - Ernest Skinner Political Association, Member, 2016 - Present - South Midwood Residents Association, Member, 2016 - Present
Please tell us a story from your professional or personal life about an instance when you were wrong, and how you learned from it.	In the fall of 2010, a colleague of mine returned from maternity leave. In the months following her return, I was frequently surprised, and frankly annoyed, when she would leave the office as quickly as possible at the end of a workday, and was unavailable to assist with cases on weekends. Now, as a working mother of two small children, I see how

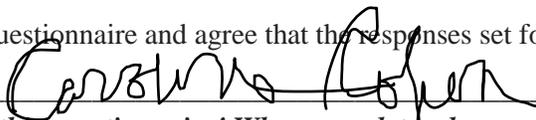
	<p>judgmental I was of a new mother re-acclimating to the workplace. Moreover, I now understand how unforgiving maternity and paternity leave policies are in the United States, in that a parent needs to rush back to work within weeks or months after the birth of her child in order to make ends meet. I also now understand how parents, particularly mothers, are held to an impossible standard of frequently being both fulltime caretaker and employee.</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>No, I do not think the current makeup of the bench in New York City is representative of its residents, as the bench is sorely lacking judges of East and South Asian descent. This can be addressed by developing the size and prominence of the South Asian Bar Association of New York and the Asian American Bar Association of New York, who can then create additional programming focused on judicial races and appointments. Such organizations can also assist with the development of larger and stronger mentorship programs dedicated to East and South Asian judges working with attorneys who want to become judges.</p>
<p>What qualities do you think voters should be looking for in a judge?</p>	<p>Whether the candidate is qualified to sit as a judge as determined by an impartial screening panel; whether the candidate has developed a reputation for excellence and fairness among peers, colleagues, and adversaries; and whether the candidate has been engaged in a diverse array of community service in the area in which the person is running.</p>
<p>Please name one judge, current or past, from any jurisdiction, who you admire, and explain why.</p>	<p>Hon. Michelle D. Schreiber, Civil Court, City of New York, Housing Part.</p> <p>I appeared before Judge Schreiber many times, and I have consistently been impressed with her judicial efficiency. Judge Schreiber presides in Housing Court, where individual judges can preside over 100 cases a day. Judge Schreiber consistently strikes a balance between allowing litigants, particularly those without attorneys, to fully speak to the legal issue in question, while moving each case forward. Being able to move cases forward, while respectfully allowing litigants’ issues to be heard, is a crucial skill and one that I seek to emulate on the bench.</p>
<p>Your Campaign</p>	
<p>Please list any websites or social media pages for your campaign.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website: www.cohenforjudge2019.com - Facebook: @cohenforjudge2019 - Twitter: @cohenforjudge2019
<p>Please list all members of your campaign staff and their roles. Were</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Wasserman, Campaign Manager - Max Davidson, Field Coordinator

<p>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gregorio Meyers, Strategist - Samuel Clarke, Community Outreach - Erica Cohen, Treasurer - Steven Cohen, Advisor - Christina Das, Volunteer Coordinator - No campaign staff member was chosen or recommended by the Kings County Democratic Committee
<p>Please list any elected officials, political clubs, or any other notable individuals or organizations who have endorsed your campaign.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brad Lander, New York City Councilmember - Rodneyse Bichotte, New York State Assembly Member - Walter Mosley, New York State Assembly Member - Geoffrey Davis, Democratic District Leader - Lew Fidler, Democratic District Leader - Ari Kagan, Democratic District Leader - Lori Maslow, Democratic District Leader - Josue Pierre, Democratic District Leader - David Schwartz, Democratic District Leader - Cory Provost, Democratic District Leader - Bay Democrats - Brooklyn Young Democrats - Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club - Lambda Independent Democrats - Political Association for Progressive Action (PAPA) - Shirley Chisholm Democratic Club
<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>My campaign is largely self-funded. As I am prohibited from having visibility into who donates to my campaign, I do not know who has donated or how much. However, I believe that friends and family members have contributed varying amounts. I would not accept money from a donor who believed that donating would impact any decisions I would make as judge.</p>
<p>Your Judicial Philosophy</p>	
<p>Why do you want to be a judge?</p>	<p>I have wanted to be a judge throughout my entire legal career. My mother wanted to be a lawyer, and ultimately a judge, but her father forbade her from attending law school. My mother saw qualities in me that she saw in herself, including determination and leadership, and encouraged me to attend law school. After my mother passed away, I wanted to fulfill her dream, now mine, of becoming a judge. Becoming a judge in many ways is an extension of the love I have for my community, as evidenced by my extensive work as a</p>

	community activist, and is the next step I can take to be in service of others.
What qualities or experiences have you taken or will you take into account when hiring your judicial employees?	It is very important for a courtroom to, foremost, have competent staff that can serve the public fully and efficiently. It is also crucial to have courtroom staff that is representative of the racial, cultural, and economic diversity found throughout New York City. As a new judge, I will highly value those who have experience operating in the court system and especially those who have experience working with heavy caseloads.
What qualities or experiences have you taken or will you take into account when appointing fiduciaries?	N/A: This seems directed to candidates for Surrogate’s Court.
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>Courts can address institutional racism foremost by engaging in criminal justice reform, as the criminal justice system disproportionately and unjustly impacts communities of color. Accordingly, legislators and judges alike need to be cognizant of various reforms such as bail reform, alternatives to incarceration, and raising the age of criminal responsibility. If elected and placed in Criminal Court, I look forward to executing such reforms in my courtroom whenever possible.</p> <p>Moreover, judges must ensure that all litigants and litigators are to be treated equally, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status. I have experience serving on the Court Civility Task Force through which I sought to ensure that women were being treated equally throughout the court system. I believe strongly in enforcing a zero-tolerance policy in order to prevent snide gendered or racialized comments in the courtroom.</p>
The Judicial Selection Process	
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 improved?	The system of electing Civil and Surrogate’s Court judges could be more transparent, as, in the past, only individuals who had strong affiliations to the Kings County Democratic Party were able to win a judicial campaign. This system encouraged loyalty to the Kings County Democratic Party and personal relationships over merit. In order to increase transparency, independent political clubs like the New Kings Democrats and others must encourage qualified candidates to run and publicize information about the candidates to their

	members. Independent political clubs must also provide resources including volunteers and monetary donations in order to help ensure that the campaign is successful.
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.	Yes, please see the attached Kings County Democratic Committee application.

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

Candidate Signature: 

Date: 4/22/19

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