



**2021 Civil and Surrogate’s Court Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**  
*Completed questionnaires will be public documents.*

**Questions? Get in touch: [politics@newkingsdemocrats.com](mailto:politics@newkingsdemocrats.com)**

Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Lewis \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current position: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Attorney, DC37 Municipal Employees Legal Services \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tenure in current position: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 years \_\_\_\_\_

<p>Please describe the types of clients you have represented in your practice.</p>	<p>I currently represent DC37 union employees and retirees in matrimonial proceedings involving issues of maintenance, child custody and visitation, child support, equitable distribution of marital property, pensions and retirement benefits.</p>
<p>Please describe the types of clients you have represented in your current practice, and throughout your career?</p>	<p>I have been a practicing attorney for more than 25 years and most of the people I represented would not have been able to afford an attorney. Currently, I represent New York City municipal employees in matrimonial proceedings. After law school I was an attorney with the Legal Aid Society where I represented low income litigants in civil and criminal court. I also represented low income litigants convicted of felonies on appeal as an appellate attorney with the Center for Appellate Litigation. I also volunteer in Housing Court where I represent tenants in holdovers and nonpayments.</p>
<p>If elected, what do you plan to point to as your top two accomplishments that will benefit constituents?</p>	<p>If elected I would continue my community service work with young people. I would invite young people into the courtroom to learn about the rehabilitative aspects of the court and begin a conversation about what they would do to create a less punitive judicial system. Second, I would increase efficiency so cases do not languish in the courts. Parties often miss too many days from work, school or lack child care to repeatedly return to court and cases do not receive the attention they deserve.</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>Implicit biases impact decision making more than people think. Attorneys and judges need to understand the needs and concerns of the communities we represent. The judicial system</p>

	<p>must constantly evaluate our implicit biases and increase diversity on the bench and the bar to represent the communities. This can be accomplished through programming about how to become a judge in black and hispanic bar associations and internships for minority law students. I would increase mentorship programs for high school and college students. In addition, I would speak to middle school students to increase their interest in the law at an earlier age. Lack of access to attorneys and judges is a significant barrier to diversity in the bar and the bench..</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 improved?</p>	<p>I would like to see more people informed about who is elected to the bench. Voters must do their own independent research about judges. Unfortunately, the current voter guides do not include judges. However, I think a voter’s guide for judges would benefit voters.</p>
<p>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 yes, <b>please submit these completed questionnaires</b> along with your responses to this questionnaire.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

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

Candidate Signature:     *Lisa Lewis*     Date:     6/4/2021    

***You must sign this questionnaire! When complete, please e-mail your signed and scanned questionnaire as a PDF file to [politics@newkingsdemocrats.com](mailto:politics@newkingsdemocrats.com).***