



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

Questions? Get in touch: politics@newkingsdemocrats.com

Name/Title: Casilda Elena Roper-Simpson

Current position: Administrative Law Judge

Tenure in current position: 3 years plus

Please describe the types of clients you have represented in your practice.

Presently, I am an Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) and thus do not have private clients at this time. As an ALJ, I conduct administrative hearings for disputes between applicants or recipients of social services and social service agencies. Consequently, most of the parties that come before me are pro-se litigants or represented litigants and attorneys representing the various social service agencies.

Please describe the types of clients you have represented in your current practice, and throughout your career?

As previously mentioned above, I am currently an ALJ and thus not currently representing private clients. However, the types of clients that I have represented throughout my career include private-pay clients, pro-bono clients, and assigned clients via the Kings County Assigned Panel – 18B attorney. For these clients, I handled criminal, family, civil rights and civil cases. Specifically on the Assigned Panel,

I represented clients who were charged with various crimes, including trespass, assault, robbery and homicide. For clients that I represented as Managing Attorney of a foster care agency, I handled matters including adoptions, termination of parental rights and neglect/abuse cases. For my private family law cases, I represented clients in matters ranging from child support disputes to custody matters.

Further, I represented clients with civil rights issues. A notable example of one of my civil rights clients, I was one of the initial attorneys that handled the worst police brutality in NYC at that time, Mr. Abner Louima. I have also represented a client who was fatally shot by one of the officers who was later involved in the shooting of Mr. Amadou Diallo. Recently, a client that I represented over 19 years ago, Mr. Jaime Davidson, was released on clemency on his innocence, whereby I represented him in the appeal of his conviction; he was sentenced to 3 life sentences plus 85 years.

As a Senior Trial Attorney at the NYS Division of Human Rights, I represented clients who were discriminated in housing matters. In this position, I litigated housing discrimination cases in the New York State Supreme Court and trial level courts of the New York State Court System.

Finally, I have represented clients in personal injury matters in my private practice, as well as a Staff Attorney in medium to large law firms. These clients include both plaintiff and defendants and the types of cases include slip and fall matters, premises liability, and landlord and tenant matters.

If elected, what do you plan to point to as your top two accomplishments that will benefit constituents?

Once elected to the Kings County Civil Court, one of my accomplishments that will benefit the People of Brooklyn is my representation of, interactions with, service to, and advocacy for diverse members of the community. For over 25 years, I have been in the trenches and I am fully committed to providing the People of Brooklyn with equal justice regardless of race, sexual preference, sexual orientation, religion, or gender.

More importantly, the other accomplishment that will benefit the People of Brooklyn should I be elected as their Civil Court Judge is my years of experience post-law school. For more than 25 years, I have practiced, supervised practitioners and have advocated for causes that pertain to various substantive law areas, which include criminal, family, civil rights and civil. Accordingly, electing me is electing a Civil Court candidate that has the requisite experience in all the subject matters that will come before the elected candidate in the Civil Court. Consequently, if elected I am fully equipped and able to “hit the ground running.” With the backlog in the courts, which have now tripled as a result of the pandemic, the Civil Court does not have the time to train its elected Civil Court Judge. The courts and the People of Brooklyn need their caseloads and disputes efficiently handled and resolved. I am ready, willing and able! I am that Judge!

How, if at all, can the courts address issues of institutionalized racism?

The courts can address institutionalized racism by ensuring that diverse

justices are appointed throughout all levels of the justice system especially in policy-making positions. Courts can ensure that court personnel are hired from diverse backgrounds and properly trained on the demographics of the community and diversity matters overall, especially that all court visitors, litigants, and attorneys shall be treated professionally, respectfully and equally. Moreover, courts can audit its justices to ensure that their decisions are based upon applying the law equally to all persons that come before them based upon relevant facts and not diversity-related factors. Finally, courts can ensure that cases and parts are assigned based upon factors not relating to race or diversity matters.

How, if at all, could and would you address these issues as a judge?

If elected as the Judge for the People of Brooklyn, I will address issues of institutionalized racism by administering justice respectfully and fairly to whoever comes before me without regard to age, gender, race, politics, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or disability. I will treat everyone fairly and apply the relevant facts to the applicable law.

Do you think that the current system of electing Civil and Surrogate's Court judges is transparent and accountable to the voting public?

The current system of electing Civil and Surrogate's Court Judges is not as transparent and accountable as it could be to the voting public. Specifically, many members of the community have intimated that (1) they did not know that Civil and Surrogate's Court Judges were elected, (2) candidates for these positions are not included in the

Voting Guide, and (3) they did not know the difference between a candidate running for Civil Court Judge districtwide or countywide. Ultimately, voters for these positions need more transparency and accountability, which includes information on how these judges are elected, all the candidates who are running, the endorsements and/or affiliations of such candidates, what the positions entail including the substantive law areas handled, and the various parties that each candidate is affiliated. With this information, the People of Brooklyn can truly make an informed decision when they enter the ballot boxes.

If so, how? If not, how can the system be improved?

The system can be improved based upon what I mentioned above and should also include hosting forums for the voters to meet and get to know their judicial candidates, which include inviting all judicial candidates without political bias or affiliation.

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, *please submit these completed questionnaires along with your responses to this questionnaire.*

Respectfully, I refrain from publicizing any completed questionnaires submitted to any Bar Associations, Committees or any other organizations.

Thank you in advance for considering all my responses to the questions above.

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

Candidate Signature: Casilda Elena Roper-Simpson Date: June 9, 2021

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