

San Francisco District 11 Democratic Club
Questionnaire for Candidates – November 2016 Candidates

PLEASE USE THIS TEMPLATE TO RESPOND ELECTRONICALLY
TO info@sfd11dems.com by **Wednesday**, August 17, 2016 by 11pm.

Our PAC meetings are scheduled for Saturday, Aug.27 & Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016 from 10am-5pm each day. If you have a preferred time to schedule, please contactinfo@sfd11dems.com.
Otherwise, you will receive time an email to sign up for timeslots using google docs.

1. **Name:** Paul Henderson
2. **Address:** *114 Sansome St. suite 200*
3. **Telephone/Cell phone:** [415 845-3773](tel:4158453773)
4. **Email address:** paul.lawtalk@gmail.com

1. **What is your political affiliation? How long?**

Democrat

1. **Please list your campaign manager and contact info?**

Ace Smith: [415 981-9940](tel:4159819940) Ace.Smith@scnstrategies.com

1. **What is the major source of your campaign funding? Also, please list your top 3 funders.**

My average contribution is \$150.00 My largest contributor is my uncle George Hall who wrote me a check for 10,000.

1. **What office are you running for? Please explain why you are running and what your qualifications are for this specific office?**

I am running for San Francisco Superior Court Judge, Seat 7. My goal is to help improve and reform our criminal and juvenile justice systems so they better serve San Francisco's diverse community. My experiences, both professionally and personally, provide me with unique qualifications regarding the role of a judicial officer.

I worked for well over 17 years as a trial attorney with a heavy caseload in the courtroom arguing hearings, defending motions and conducting trials (I have tried a variety of 46 matters to verdict). I also developed and implemented a number of programs related to justice reforms before moving into management positions. During my career I have served as a Pro-Tem Superior Court bench officer resolving criminal cases. Moreover, I have several years of experience as a hearing officer (in the county of Alameda) where I heard civil appellate cases. Outside of the courtroom I continue to contribute to the legal profession by a deep involvement with public service activities. I serve alongside numerous boards and agencies designed to create opportunities for others while maintaining a high profile of service.

1. **Identify the three most important issues for the position you seek? What are the solutions you see for these specific issue areas or how will you work to tackle them?**

-I believe that my experiences, both professionally and personally, provide me with unique qualifications regarding the role of a judicial officer. My career has allowed me to deal with all types of people in a variety of circumstances. This background gives me a unique perspective that would inform my decision making process as a judicial officer. I have handled litigation across a wide field of practice areas and from a variety of roles. More importantly, I have worked with advocates and communities to represent a variety of interests both within and outside of the courtroom. I have extensive experience in government, (with both legal and non-legal positions) which contributes greatly to my understanding of the way decisions are made.

Despite the challenges that I have faced in my life, I was able to ascend as a leader in our legal profession. I worked incredibly hard to obtain entrance into our legal community and I will always remember that I am one of those who made it through the gauntlet of poverty and challenging circumstances.

My policy priorities are to:

1. Make the legal profession more inclusive
2. Diversify the judiciary to reflect the community it is designed to serve and
3. Increase access to legal services for a broader community

1. **District 11 has more children, more ethnic diversity and more homeowners than any other district in San Francisco. These are just a few of the unique features of this district. If elected, describe the priorities of your office for District 11.**

Poverty and inclusion are the biggest hurdles facing our children in San Francisco. The earning gap is extremely wide in this city and we are facing a community of haves and have nots that effects our children and our education system. I grew up on the challenging side of that equation here in San Francisco and am committed to making sure that my perspective on the bench would be one that reflects a more objective and unbiased approach with these concerns.

I would also remain dedicated to expanding opportunities within the legal profession for underserved and underrepresented communities. I have a personal and acute awareness of the institutional barriers facing certain communities in higher education and in our profession. I believe that my activism related to children would serve the community of San Francisco well. My leadership serves as an example to every community of what can be achieved through hard work. My experience working within the leadership of the State Bar (Coalition on Access and Fairness) gave me a forum to expand opportunities for inclusion within our profession. I hope to continue growing these opportunities if offered the privilege to continue my public service as a superior court judge.

1. **We would like to know your position on the following ALL of the Measures, please circle or clearly mark your preference. In addition, please add short comments to**

your top 5 issues on why you believe this measure or proposition is of critical importance this election:

I have not reviewed all of the ballot measures to tell you every opinion on them yet. However the ones that I feel strongly about include sugary beverages and police reform. I also support the BART bond as well. These are subject to my understanding of the propositions and not an endorsement on the topics since any of these issues could result in litigation as subject matter for the superior court.