



Dear Candidate:

The San Francisco Democratic Party (SFDCCC) is eager to learn more about your candidacy and invites you to participate in our endorsement process.

If you would like to be considered for an endorsement by SFDCCC, please complete the attached Endorsement Questionnaire and return to info@sfdemocrats.org by **Monday, March 12 at 5:00pm**. Our Endorsement Committee will meet candidates for interviews on **March 17, 2018**. The exact time of your interview and location will be provided to you after we review your completed Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire and have determined that you meet our bottom line requirements to be considered for an endorsement. At the time of the interview, you may also provide additional information to supplement your questionnaire. You are limited to four (4) total pages, and you must provide 45 copies.

SFDCCC seeks to encourage the election of qualified local candidates who will help to advance our shared Democratic values. We are only able to endorse registered Democrats, except in the case of a nonpartisan race in which no registered Democrat has qualified for the ballot. We also seek to support those candidates who express agreement and have demonstrated support for our core issues and priorities, which are included in the California Democratic Party Platform, our Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures Manual (which can all be found at www.cadems.org and www.sfdemocrats.org).

To qualify for an endorsement interview, all candidates must indicate that they support the Democratic principles in our party platform, complete the Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire, and return it by the deadline of **March 12, 2018 at 5:00 pm**.

Candidate interviews will be brief and will be open to both SFDCCC members and members of San Francisco's chartered democratic clubs. Following the Endorsement Committee interview, the full body will deliberate and vote on a final endorsement at our meeting scheduled for March 28, 2018, at 6:30pm, at the Tenderloin Community

Elementary School. Meetings are open to the general public and are live streamed on our Facebook page. You are welcome to attend or follow our progress online.

The following rules also apply to the SFDCCC endorsement process and any violation may be subject to further actions, including a revocation of the endorsement:

1. Candidates may only use the “SF Democratic Party” name and image after the full membership endorsement;
2. Once endorsed, the SFDCCC will provide a high-resolution copy of our logo which may be used in your materials **only** for the race for which you were endorsed;
3. In the case of elections in which Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is employed, listing of the SFDCCC endorsement must accurately reflect the ranked endorsement as detailed in our Policies and Procedures Manual;
4. Third parties wishing to utilize the SFDCCC name or logo in their campaign materials must submit a request to our Executive Director.

Thank you very much for your interest in the SFDCCC endorsement. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. We look forward to learning more about your candidacy and your campaign.

Respectfully,
The San Francisco Democratic Party

By signing below, you acknowledge that you will comply with the SFDCCC’s Bylaws and Policies and Procedures and you will not utilize the SFDCCC name, the San Francisco Democratic Party, or its logo without written permission.

Phoenix Streets

(name)



(signature)

Superior Court Judge Seat No. 4

(position and seat number)

March 12, 2018

(date)



SFDCCC Candidate Questionnaire
Superior Court Judge - June 2018

Name Phoenix Streets

Address 1300 Page St. Apt. 5

City, State, Zip San Francisco, CA., 94117

Campaign Phone Number 415-259-9454

Cell Phone Number (415) 558-2454

E-mail Address phoenixstreets3@gmail.com

What office and which seat are you running for?
San Francisco Superior Court Judge

Are you running for re-election? Yes No

What other elected positions have you held previously?
None

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- Please complete this questionnaire and bring 45 copies (for the 31 Committee members and for Democratic Clubs) with you to be distributed just prior to your interview appointment on **March 17, 2018**
 - ****IMPORTANT**** Please send electronic copies to info@SFDemocrats.org by 5:00 PM on **March 12, 2018**
 - With the *possible exception* of a Democratic candidate filing to run after the questionnaire due date, *only* candidates who return a completed questionnaire electronically by the due date will be allowed to present before the committee.

- At the time of the interview, you may also provide 45 copies of up to 4 pages of supplemental information attached to your questionnaire for distribution to SFDCCC members (materials are not to be passed out during the meeting).
- We may distribute the questionnaires in preparation for event and post them on the SFDCCC website for the public to view.
- If you have not heard from the committee by **Thursday, March 15**, please contact Executive Director, Adam Mehis at 415-626-1161 or info@sfdemocrats.org to schedule a time slot during the Endorsement Interview Meeting.

PART I: GENERAL QUESTIONS (200 words or less)

- 1) Are you a registered member of the Democratic Party?

Yes.

- 2) Please describe your contributions to the Democratic Party and/or increasing civic engagement in the democratic process at the local, state and or/national level in recent years.

I have worked with campaigns for San Francisco Supervisor and Mayor. I have donated to campaigns for local, state, and federal campaigns, as well as, local and state ballot measures.

- 3) Are there any other civic causes or organizations that you are involved with currently or were involved in prior to taking the bench? Please describe.

Public Defenders for Racial Justice, former president of Association of Students at the University of California at Hastings, former member of Black Law Student Association.

- 4) Please list any organizations or elected officials who have endorsed you.

Supervisor Hillary Ronen
Public Defender Jeff Adachi
Chief Attorney of Public Defenders Office Matt Gonzalez

PART II: SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS (250 Words or less)

- 1) What do you perceive as the strengths of the Superior Court? What are the current weaknesses and how would you like to see the judicial system improved?

I believe Restorative and Collaborative Courts are strengths of the Superior Court. I believe one of the Superior Court's current weaknesses is a narrow perspective that comes with a judiciary predominantly comprised of attorneys from the prosecutorial ranks that were appointed by politicians. As a public defender with 17 years of experience running for judicial office, I believe I will bring a much needed perspective to the judiciary.

2) Please summarize your qualifications and experience for the office you are seeking. Have you ever had any experience with management? If you are seeking re-election, what is your experience prior to serving on the bench?

Yes. As a petty officer in the U.S. Navy, I managed members of the communications team.

3) Have you ever had to support a legal position that was contrary to your personal moral beliefs? Please describe.

As an officer of the court, I am obligated to uphold California's laws and constitution. In upholding my sworn duty, I have had to support legal positions that were contrary to my personal moral beliefs such as defending individuals with racist and sexist beliefs.

4) What do you perceive are the primary causes to the high rates of incarceration among communities of color? Do you believe the Court has a role to play in criminal justice reform?

I believe the high rates of incarceration among communities of color are the result of the over-policing of these communities and intrinsic racism that is pandemic among all our law enforcement institutions.

5) Do you believe that the current bail schedule has disproportionate impacts on low-income communities of color? How could this system be reformed and how?

Absolutely. Throughout my career as a public defender, many of my clients have had to assist in the preparation of their defenses while in jail because they were unable to make bail because they and/or their families simply could afford to do so. Statistically, a person has a much better chance of mounting a successful defense if that person is not incarcerated while the case is pending. The system can be reformed by setting lower bails to meet the constitutional requirement proscribing excessive bail.

6) San Francisco is facing a car break-in epidemic that is organized by crime networks. What do you perceive are the factors leading to this problem? What is the court's role in preventing offenders returning to crime?

I believe that most crime is the result of poverty, addiction, abuse, and/or mental illness. The court has a vital role to play in ending the pernicious cycle of recidivism that plagues a majority of those ensnared in the criminal justice system by addressing the root cause of crime through San Francisco's Restorative and Collaborative Courts including Behavioral Health Court, Veteran's Court, Drug Court, and Criminal Justice Court.

7) Do you believe there is enough diversity in the court system? If not, how are you working to improve representation?

I believe there is not enough diversity in the court system. By running for judge as an African American man who grew up in poverty and was raised by a single mother, I will bring much needed diversity to our judiciary which will broaden its perspective to the benefit of all San Franciscans.

8) How does your background and experience prepare you for legal cases pertaining to the rights of women, people of color, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ?

My life experience and my experience in the Public Defender's Office has given me an understanding of the perspective of women, people of color, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQ. With that understanding, I can apply the law in a manner beneficial to all.

9) Do you believe there should be implicit bias training for judges?

Absolutely. However, the training should be presented by a trained professional in the area. It should not be presented by a judge to other judges.

10) What is the court's role in decriminalizing those with mental illness or the homeless who are caught up in our criminal justice system?

The court can play a role in decriminalizing those with mental illness or the homeless through diversionary programs that place such individuals in treatment facilities and residential programs instead of sending them to jails or prisons.

11) How should the court ensure a fair hearing in the case of pro per or unrepresented litigants in family court or housing court?

By understanding that pro per and/or unrepresented litigants in family court or housing court are not as legally sophisticated as attorneys trained in the law and providing them with the necessary legal assistance, the court can ensure a fair hearing for them.

12) What do you perceive are the biggest obstacles the court faces in civil litigation? How can this be improved to best serve the general public?

The huge backlog of cases is the biggest obstacle the court faces in civil litigation. I believe this can be improved through more widespread use and acceptance of alternative dispute resolution including community courts and mediation.