

Social Justice in Action

Get to Know Your Judicial Candidates for the May Primary



**Judicial
Candidate
Guide 2025**

Introduction

Judicial races are some of the most important elections to participate in, but are often under-promoted and neglected by the public. Judges serve for some of the longest periods of time out of all elected representatives, some even serving for life. Judges on the Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania serve for 10 years before running for re-election. While judges are meant to remain impartial when making decisions, interpretation of law can leave room for opinions or biases to be expressed, meaning judges have significant power over communities that are often overlooked.

This guide was created by students at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work to educate the community on judicial candidates running in the 2025 primary on May 20th. We connected their platforms to social work values and emphasized themes of dignity, equity, and respect. Our hope is that this guide can help inform decisions when voting for 8 candidates this May.



Judicial Candidates

Alyssa Cowan



- **Endorsements:** Steel City Stonewall Democrats, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, PA State Education Association, College Democrats at Pitt, The Young Democrats of Allegheny County, PSEA PACE, 14th Ward Democratic Club, AFSCME, Justice Slate, Congressman Chris Deluzio, Various State Representatives and Leadership (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Supervisory Assistant County Solicitor for Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Assistant Attorney General in DC, Adjunct Professor at University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, Dedicated over 20 years to supporting Allegheny County families
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association
- **Website:** <https://votecowan.com/>

Alyssa Cowen is the only candidate running with a social work background. She is dedicated to bringing this background to the judiciary, advocating for restorative justice reform and emphasizing social work values. Alyssa has expertise in providing legal representation for youth and litigation in child welfare. She acknowledges the racial bias in America's criminal justice system and would like to address these inequities in her work as a judge. In honor of transparency, her resume and experiences are available on her website.

Amanda Green-Hawkins

- **Endorsements:** Democratic Committee of Allegheny County, IUOE Local 66, Laborers International Union, Boilermakers Local 154, United Steel Workers, College Democrats at Pitt, Steel City Stonewall Democrats
- **Qualifications:** Current Union Lawyer for over 23 Years, Adjunct Faculty at University of Pittsburgh Law School, Served as Mediator for Federal and State Agencies
- **Accomplishments:** Twice elected to Allegheny County Council (Chair of Economic Development Committee), Led Passage of Legislation Prohibiting Discrimination Against Gender Identity or Expression, Involved with PA Democratic Party Legal Team for 20+ Years
- **Website:** <https://www.voteamandagreenhawkins.com/>



Amanda is running for Allegheny Court of Common Pleas because she knows that our courts are a sentinel for our rights and our Constitutional democracy. She believes that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, and to have their voices heard. Each person and each case are important and have value. Amanda is a precision driven attorney who works on behalf of working families. "I know that with my experience, integrity, compassion and temperament that I can best serve as a judge in the Court of Common Pleas to follow and apply the laws which the people earned through our democracy." She believes that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, and to have their voices heard. Each person and each case are important and have value. Amanda is a precision driven attorney who works on behalf of working families.

Amy Mathieu



- **Endorsements:** City Councilwoman Erika Strassburger, Young Democrats of Allegheny County, Steel City Stonewall Democrats, North Hills Progressives, College Democrats at Pitt, Lesbian PAC, LGBTQ+ Victory Fund, Run For Something (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Current Partner at HKM Employment Attorneys LLP, Judicial Clerk for Christine Ward in Allegheny Court of Common Pleas (2016-18), Professional Attorney for 7 years
- **Accomplishments:** Pittsburgh Action Against Rape's "Every Step of the Way" Award 2025, Outstanding Law Student from the National Association of Women Lawyers, Order of the Barristers for Outstanding Courtroom Advocacy
- **Website:** <https://www.amyforall.com/>

Her ultimate goal is to establish a courtroom that prioritizes accessibility, equity, and fairness for all individuals. As a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, Amy envisions a future where the diversity of the county is reflected in the composition of the judiciary. Actions she will take towards this goal include:

- Expanding access to justice for those who have been harmed, whether through systemic abuse, discrimination, or lack of legal resources
- Protecting civil rights for marginalized groups, especially:
 - Women and their access to health care, people of color, people with disabilities
 - LGBTQ individual and community access to healthcare, access to legal name change services, and being protected from workplace and housing discrimination

Anthony DeLuca

- **Endorsements:** Allegheny County Constables Association, International Union of Operating Engineers 95, Communication Workers of America, Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Boilermakers, Pittsburgh Plumbers 27, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 85, Chair Valley Democratic Organization, Teamsters Union, Eastern Regional Democratic Organization, South Park Democratic Committee, 19th Ward Democratic Committee (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Runs Own Firm for 20+ Years in Criminal Defense, Assistant DA for Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, Judicial Clerk for Justice Frank Montemura and Judge Maureen Lally-Green, Labor Attorney for 15 years
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, Developed Allegheny County Mental Health Court
- **Website:** <https://delucaforjudge2025.com/>



Anthony DeLuca has a collaborative approach to law and is the only judicial candidate with explicit labor law experience. He recognizes mental health, addiction, and other underlying issues as key problems that lead to most people entering the criminal justice system. By working diligently to understand the needs of defendants, victims, and communities, his team in the Mental Health Court were able to fashion case results that addressed, as best as possible, the varying concerns and needs of those parties. By looking beyond the sentencing matrix, they were often able to obtain results that satisfied the victims, treated the offender, and protected society by reducing recidivism. He often works pro bono or at reduced rates to represent criminal defendants with mental illness.

Judicial Candidates

Bryan Neft



- **Endorsements:** IBEW Local 5, Steamfitters Local 449, Pittsburgh 14th Ward Independent Democratic Club, Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Current Civil Litigation Attorney at Spilman, Thomas, & Battle, Passed State Bar in 4 States, Attorney Experience for 28 Years, Former Law Clerk for Superior Court of Pennsylvania, Served in Leadership Roles on the Allegheny County Bar Association's Board of Governors for 15 Years, Serves on 6 Boards
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, Established Bar Association's Code of Professionalism
- **Website:** <https://www.voteneft.com/>

Bryan Neft champions issues affecting women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ members of the legal profession. He believes the "justice should be fair, accessible, and free from bias." He supports restorative justice and believes in juvenile rehabilitation. He has practiced in 30 counties across Pennsylvania and specializes in healthcare litigation and compliant, commercial litigation, Qui Tam (whistleblower) litigation, and product liability. He is also an active volunteer at multiple hunger relief organizations throughout Pittsburgh.

Craig Stephens

- **Endorsements:** Justice Slate, Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Chartiers Valley Democratic Chairs CMTE, Teamsters Local 249, Eastern Regional Democratic Organization, Forest Hills Democratic Committee, Avalon and Bellevue Democratic Committee, Steel City Stonewall Democrats, 19th Ward Democratic Committee, Carnegie Democratic Committee, Char Valley Democratic Committee
- **Qualifications:** Current Magisterial District Judge, Assistant County Solicitor and Solicitor in Mental Health Unit and Ethics Commission, Scott Township Commissioner 1995-2015
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by the Allegheny County Bar Association
- **Website:** <https://www.craigstephensforjudge.com/>



With a career built on integrity and service, Judge Craig Stephens is committed to delivering fair and impartial justice while advocating for stronger, safer communities. He has dedicated his career to local government through his work in the courts and as Commissioner of Scott Township. He has county experience as a solicitor for child abuse and neglect cases, mental health, and compliance and integrity in government operations. He has also presided over 50,000 cases as a Magisterial District Judge since 2015.

Judicial Candidates

Dan Miller



- **Endorsements:** Allegheny-Fayette Labor Council, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 58, American Federation of Government Employees, Bricklayers Local 9, Pittsburgh Regional Building Trades Council, IBEW Local 5, IBEW Local 29, Iron Workers Local Union 3, Laborers Pennsylvania District Council, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Steel City Stonewall Democrats (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Current Attorney at Ruder Law Specializing in Special Education and Disability Rights, Current PA State Representative, Former Public School Teacher, AmeriCorps Member, Former Public Defender, Mount Lebanon Borough Commissioner 2007-2011, Former County Solicitor
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, Has authored 180+ Bills and Resolutions in State House, Serves as House Majority Whip, Board of Trustees for Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Commissioner on the Employment First Oversight Commission
- **Website:** <https://votedanmiller.com>

State Representative Dan Miller has served as an advocate for people with disabilities since the start of his career, which he has been professionally recognized for. He has served the communities of Allegheny County in various ways, committing his life to public service. As the eldest child of immigrant parents, Dan was the first member of his family born in America. Raised by a single mom, finances were often challenging, but his family instilled in him a strong appreciation and recognition of the special opportunities America offered. Learn more about his path leading up to this election on his website.

Dennis Very

- **Endorsements:** N/A
- **Qualifications:** Current Senior Counsel at Leventry, Haschak & Rodkey, 30 Years of Experience in Civil Litigation
- **Accomplishments:** Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association
- **Website:** <https://dennisvery.com/>



Dennis Very is the only candidate with extensive experience in complex civil litigation cases. The Civil Court Division ends up handling about 1/3 of cases entering the courts. He had defended municipal clients (e.g., school districts, boroughs), small businesses, and communities against overdevelopment.

Elizabeth Hughes



- **Endorsements:** PA State Representative Emily Kinhead, Dr. Holly Hatcher-Frazier
- **Qualifications:** Current Primary Counsel for 3 Major Hospitals in Allegheny County, Former Assistant County Solicitor, Former Family Law Attorney for 10 Years, Former President of Allegheny County Bar Association, 12 Years on Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board Hearing Committee, Former Judicial Law Clerk for Honorable Justin M. Johnson
- **Accomplishments:** Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, International Women's Forum Fellow, Former President Emeritus of University of Pittsburgh Law Alumni, Co-Author of Black Lawyers of the Burgh, 2024 Philip Werner Amram Award Recipient
- **Website:** <https://www.votehughesforjudge.com/>

Elizabeth Hughes has 20 years of legal experience, including practicing in every division of the Court of Common Pleas. Her specialization is in family law and she has made serving children and families a cornerstone of her career. She also has worked with many cases involving mental illness and health concerns, and she is currently primary counsel for 1 trauma center, 1 pediatric hospital, and 1 women's health hospital. She also advises over 60 pediatric outpatient offices.

Heather Schmidt Brensahan

- **Endorsements:** Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council, Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Pittsburgh Regional Building Trades Council, 19th Ward City of Pittsburgh Democrats, Teamsters Local Union 205, Steamfitters Local Union 449, Eastern Regional Democratic Organization, South Park Democrats, Amalgamated Transit Union, Teamsters Local Union 249 (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Opened Schmidt Brensahan Law Group, Family Lawyer for 23 Years, Former Dormont Borough Council Member
- **Accomplishments:** Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, Twice Named PA Super Lawyer "Rising Star" in Family Law, Pittsburgh Magazine's "50 Finest" Young Professionals 2005
- **Website:** <https://www.heatherforjudge2025.com/>



"As a family law attorney, I've built a career standing up for people during their toughest times. I know that the courtroom is not just about cases—it's about people, families, and fairness. That's why I'm running for the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Because the people of Allegheny County deserves a judge who brings compassion, integrity, and our shared values to the bench." - Heather Schmidt Brensahan

Hilary Wheatley



- **Endorsements:** North Hills Progressive Neighbors, South Park Democratic Committee, Allegheny County Constables Association (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Current Magisterial District Judge, Former Judicial Law Clerk for Honorable John C. Uhler, Former Trial Attorney for 15 Years, Chairperson of the Mt. Lebanon Zoning Hearing Board and Appeals Board, Sits on Board of Directors of the Dormont Community Development Corporation
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, Re-established Women's Club of Mt. Lebanon
- **Website:** <https://electhilary.com/>

Judge Hilary Wheatley has a commitment to community involvement and has continued to engage with the community while serving at a Magisterial District Judge. She has acknowledged the racial discrimination within the courts and views incarceration as a punishment meant only for a crime. Her background in psychology informs her decisions regarding cases involving mental health and substance use concerns. She values fairness and does not tolerate bias in her courtroom.

Jackie Obara

- **Endorsements:** Carnegie Democratic Committee, Char Valley Democratic Chairs Committee, Eastern Regional Democratic Organization, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #1 and #91, Iron Workers Local Union No. 3, Teamsters Local 249, Pittsburgh Regional Building Trades Council, Steamfitters Local Union 449 (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Currently Running Own Law Practice, Former Clerk for Honorable Thomas Flaherty in Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas for 18 Years, Adjunct Faculty of Duquesne University School of Law
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, CALI Award for Excellence in Pennsylvania Civil Procedure and Trial Advocacy
- **Website:** <https://www.jackieo4judge.com/>



Jackie Obara is committed to ensuring all individuals, regardless of identity, are given equal opportunity in her courtroom. She was appointed as a Discovery Master for the Court of Common Pleas Family Division and was appointed as a Divorce Hearing Officer during her time clerking for the Honorable Thomas Flaherty. Jackie specializes in Family Law and is a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association's Women in the Law Division.

Jamie Hickton



- **Endorsements:** Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Planned Parenthood PA PAC, Allegheny-Fayette County Labor Council, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 85, LGBTQ+ Victory Fund, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, Steel City Stonewall Democrats, Pitt College Democrats, Congressman Chris Deluzio (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Judicial Clerk for Judge Meagan Bilik-DeFazio, Experience as an Assistant DA in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, Runs Own Law Firm Since 2020, Appointed by Former Governor Wolf in 2021 to Work on a Committee Addressing the Juvenile Justice System
- **Accomplishments:** Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, Top 40 Under 40 by National Trial Lawyers, Awarded "Best Summation" at Buffalo-Niagara National Trial Competition, Board Member for Pittsburgh Action Against Rape and Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania
- **Website:** <https://www.hicktonforjudge.com/>

Jamie Hickton has been committed to helping at-risk youth and families throughout her career. Coming from a blue-collar family background, she recognizes the struggles of families in Allegheny County and is dedicated to protecting them. She believes in every individual's right to dignity and respect, and works to ensure fairness in her cases. Jamie has a deep understanding of the child welfare system and has spent 20 years protecting children and the value of equity.

Julie Capone

- **Endorsements:** Eastern Regional Democratic Organization, Pitt College Democrats, South Park Democrats, Chartiers Valley Democratic Chairs Committee, Young Democrats of Allegheny County, Congressman Chris Deluzio (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Current Assistant DA for 23 years, specializing in Elder Abuse, Elected to leadership positions at Allegheny County Bar Association, Serves Pro Bono at Pitt Law Elder Abuse Clinic
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by the Allegheny County Bar Association, First Prosecutor assigned to Allegheny County Elder Abuse Unit, Created Victim-Sensitive Practices in Court, Inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County
- **Website:** <https://www.juliecapone.com>



A primary pillar of Julie Capone's campaign is advocacy for elders in Allegheny County. She is also the only candidate with explicit expertise in elder advocacy and elder abuse cases. She has been a longtime member of the United Steelworkers union.

Lauren Leiggi



- **Endorsements:** Alliance for Police Accountability, Carnegie Democratic Committee, Lesbian PAC, North Hills Progressives, PA Women Rise, Pennsylvania United, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, Pittsburgh Free Will Health and Wellness, Straight Ahead, Steel City Stonewall Democrats, United PAC, Working Families Party, 1Hood Power, 14th Ward Independent Democratic Club, Young Dems of Allegheny County (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Current Allegheny County Public Defender, Pro Bono Work for Immigration Cases, Local Court Unit President of the United Steelworkers
- **Accomplishments:** Established Immigration Consequences Group for Non-Citizen Clients Facing Criminal Charges, 2025 Bright Young People Award, Rico Award Finalist, Beth Cross Award
- **Website:** <https://www.llforcp.com/>

Lauren Leiggi has a long-standing commitment to community work and advocacy, which she was awarded for during her time at Temple University by receiving the Beth Cross Award. Her priorities include advocating for the LGBTQ+ community, rights for immigrants and non-citizens, and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. She recognizes that the judicial system compounds harm experienced by people holding intersectional identities. Lauren currently provides criminal legal education and resources at community events and plans to continue to put the community first as a judge.

Ilan Zur

- **Endorsements:** Pennsylvania Laborer's District Council, Operating Engineers Local 66, 14th Ward Independent Democratic Club (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Current Deputy District Attorney for 12 Years Focusing on Violent Crimes & Firearms and Narcotics, Allegheny County Assistant DA for 14 Years
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association
- **Website:** <https://www.zur4judge.com/>



Ilan Zur has worked for Allegheny County for most of his professional career, representing over 400 cases in county courtrooms. He specifically directed the prosecution of the most gun violence offenses in Allegheny County. Combating gun violence is a major piece of his platform and he seeks justice for victims of gun violence across the county. Ilan is driven by public service and believes a judge's role is to look beyond the offense of a defendant. He's also supported the view that the juvenile system should primarily focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment.

Matt Rudzki



- **Endorsements:** Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Young Democrats of Allegheny County, Steel City Stonewall Democrats, North Hills Progressives, Allegheny County Constables Association, College Democrats at Pitt, Pittsburgh's 19th Ward Democrats, Carnegie Democratic Committee, South Park Democrats, Justice Slate (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Current Magisterial District Judge in Fox Chapel Region, Professional Attorney for 8 years, Former Sharpsburg Borough Mayor and Councilman
- **Accomplishments:** Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, Fullbright Fellow, 2013 Duquesne University Mind, Heart, and Spirit Award, 2018 Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence, 2018 HUMANE Action Pittsburgh Legislator of the Year, 2023 Washington & Jefferson College Outstanding Young Alumni Award
- **Website:** <https://www.judgerudzki4commonpleas.com/>

Judge Rudzki's practices are rooted in his experience as a teacher, mayor, councilman, and sitting judge, all of which made him aware of the needs of the people he serves. He addresses disparities within the justice system by striving to deliver due process to all parties appearing before the courts and ensuring that they receive equitable treatment. Currently he holds Monthly night court sessions for juvenile cases help to avoid pulling them out of school and for parties who cannot afford to take off a day of work.

Michele Santicola

- **Endorsements:** Pennsylvania Laborers' District Council, Allegheny County Constables Association, Allegheny-Fayette County Labor Council, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Pittsburgh Building Trades Council, Pennsylvania State Education Association, Pittsburgh Firefighters, National Trail Lodge 47, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #91
- **Qualifications:** Current Magisterial District Judge, Attorney for 30 Years, Former Moon Township Supervisor, Former Deputy Attorney General, Hearing Examiner for Liquor Control Board
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, Appointed to Criminal Rules Committee on Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- **Website:** <https://www.santicola4judge.com/>



Judge Michele Santicola is the only candidate running who has experience as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and a judge. She started her career in the Public Protection Division to protect vulnerable consumers from predatory business practices. She has served her local community as a township supervisor and a magisterial judge. She also prioritizes fraud education for senior citizens and will engage with the community through education.

Judicial Candidates

Mike Sullivan



- **Endorsements:** N/A
- **Qualifications:** Current Defense Attorney at Krolikowski Law, Former Assistant DA for Venango County and Allegheny County, Former Deputy District Attorney
- **Accomplishments:** Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, Trained Police Officers and Assistant DAs in Intimate Partner Violence Response, Chaired Domestic Violence Task Force
- **Website:** <https://www.mikesullivanforjudge.com/>

“Driven by a deep commitment to fairness, integrity, and the belief that every individual deserves equal access to justice, I am running for Judge because we must ensure that all voices are heard and treated with respect in our legal system — not just the voices of the powerful.” - Mike Sullivan

Quita Bridges

- **Endorsements:** Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Young Democrats of Allegheny County, 19th Ward Democratic Committee, College Democrats University of Pittsburgh, South Park Democratic Committee, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, Steel City Stonewall Democrats, Congressman Chris Deluzio (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Current Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General for 10 Years, Former Deputy District Attorney for 16 Years, Judicial Law Clerk for Honorable Cynthia A. Baldwin
- **Accomplishments:** Highly Recommended by Allegheny County Bar Association, Served on Criminal Rules Committee for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- **Website:** <https://www.quitabridgesforjudge.com/>



Quita Bridges has spent her career serving the community as a District Attorney and in the Office of the Attorney General. She is committed to community engagement and a more equitable justice system. Quita believes in ensuring fairness, dignity, and compassion for all people, which she would be bringing to the courts as a judge. She has represented many vulnerable groups such as victims of child abuse and sexual assault, and is dedicated to protecting civil rights, especially for marginalized groups.

Judicial Candidates

Sarra Terry



- **Endorsements:** Planned Parenthood PA PAC, Pennsylvania Laborers' District Council, Allegheny-Fayette Labor Council, Pittsburgh Regional Building Trades Council, Teamsters Local No. 249, Steamfitters Local Union 449, Pittsburgh Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local Union #2, Boilermakers Local No. 154, Chartiers Valley Democratic Chairs Committee, Eastern Regional Democratic Organization (*See More on Website*)
- **Qualifications:** Current Special Counsel at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote for 13 Years, Former Judicial Law Clerk in Allegheny County's Family Division for 12 Years
- **Accomplishments:** N/A
- **Website:** <https://www.voteforsarra.com/>

Sarra is committed to creating a legal system that prioritizes people over process. Her work focuses on:

- Breaking Generational Cycles – Promoting career training and reentry programs that provide real second chances and reduce repeat offenses.
- Strengthening Mental Health Support – Ensuring individuals and families have access to meaningful mental health and substance use resources.
- Building Stronger Community Partnerships –Collaborating with unions, advocacy groups, and local organizations to create a court system rooted in fairness and opportunity.
- Expanding Trauma-Informed Practices – Advocating for a court system that recognizes the impact of trauma and prioritizes healing, not just penalties.

Carmen Robinson

- **Endorsements:** N/A
- **Qualifications:** Current trial lawyer, 19 years of law experience, Judicial Law Clerk for Honorable Max Baer, Dwayne Woodruff, and Kim Berkeley Clark for 11 Years
- **Accomplishments:** N/A
- **Website:** N/A



Carmen Robinson is the only candidate with 15 years in law enforcement with the Pittsburgh Police before practicing law. She believes judges should act with cultural competency as well as fairness, recognizing that systemic barriers in place for marginalized groups. She has used her career as an attorney to advocate for individuals from marginalized backgrounds. She actively supports inmates as a volunteer and advocates for their medical care. She has spent 85% of her practice in criminal law.

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