



ESTABLISHED 1934

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The answers to the following questions will appear on the websites of the *Detroit Free Press*, the Oakland County Bar Association, and the League of Women Voters - Oakland Area. Please be concise in your answers. Answers to the questions on page 9 will appear in the League of Women Voters Oakland County Voter Guide.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer all questions completely and accurately and return this questionnaire to Jennifer Roosenberg at jroosenberg@ocba.org.
2. Print the Certificate of Accuracy. Sign, scan, and return it to the email listed above, fax to (248) 334-7757, or mail to the Oakland County Bar Association, ATTN: Jennifer Roosenberg, 1760 S. Telegraph Rd., Suite 100, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302.

COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES AND CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE OAKLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION BY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.

I. PUBLIC INFORMATION:

1. Name: AMY WECHSLER
2. Name as it will appear on the ballot: AMY WECHSLER
3. Judicial Office you are seeking: 48th DISTRICT COURT
4. Campaign website address: Electamyforjudge.com
5. Community in which you live: SYLVAN LAKE
6. Date of Birth: 12/31/1972
Place of Birth: DETROIT, MI
7. Have you ever been known by another name not listed above? YES **NO**
NO.

If YES, what was it?

8. Please state your marital status. Provide your spouse's full name, including maiden name, if applicable. List your spouse's occupation, employer's name and business address(es).

Married. Donald John White, Mortgage Consultant, Genisys Credit Union, 2011 Executive Hills Blvd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326.

9. Military Service: Have you had any military service? If so, provide particulars, including the dates, branch of service, rank or rate, and type of discharge received.

NO.

10. Education: List each college and law school you have attended, including dates of attendance, degrees received, and dates degrees were granted.

Palm Beach Community College – 1990-1991

Oakland Community College – Orchard Ridge – 1991-1992; 1993-1994

Wayne State University – 1992-1993

University of Michigan Dearborn- 1994-1996 – BA Political Science, Minor Sociology

University of Detroit – School of Law – 1996-1999- JD

11. Employment Record: List (by year) the following activities:

A. All non-law-related business and professional activities, including employment by corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions and organizations, nonprofit or otherwise. Include firms with which you were connected as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college.

Forum Group, LLC – 2013-2014 – Commercial Real Estate salesperson

Signature Associates – 2014-2015- Commercial Real Estate salesperson

Woodward Commercial Group, LLC – 2015-Present – Owner/Managing Broker

- B. All law-related professional activities, including the names of all law firms, corporate law departments, courts, governmental agencies, and private agencies, with which you were affiliated, and including the names of other lawyers with whom you were associated in any informal association.

Wayne County Prosecutor's Office – Internship

Judge Richard Hathaway – Intern/Clerk

Attorney General's Office – Abuse and Neglect Division – Internship

Rockind & Liss, PLLC – Associate Attorney to Neil Rockind

- C. If your past employment includes service as a law clerk to a judge, state the name of the judge, the court, and the dates of your service.

Judge Richard Hathaway – Frank Murphy Hall of Justice – Intern/Clerk 1998 Winter Semester

12. Judicial Office: State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court.

N/A

13. Public Office: State (chronologically) any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. State (chronologically) any unsuccessful candidacies for elective public office.

N/A

14. Honors and Awards: List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, and honorary society memberships that you believe would be of interest to the public.

N/A

15. Memberships: List all organizations to which you belong that are active in lobbying before public bodies. Please list all other organizations (other than bar associations or professional societies) to which you now or ever have been a member. If you are no longer a member, state the approximate date your membership ceased.

Hope Not Handcuffs

National Association of Drug Court Professionals/Justice for Vets

ACLU

NAACP

ASPCA

Humane Society of Michigan

16. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are or were a member and include the dates of membership. Also indicate whether you have served as an officer or committee chair of a bar association, professional society, or similar organization.

State Bar of Michigan – 2000-Present

Criminal Law Section State Bar of Michigan – 2015-Present

Jewish Bar Association of Michigan – 2017-Present

17. Court Admission: List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, with dates of admission and lapses if any such memberships lapsed. Please explain the reason for any lapse of membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies which require special admission to practice.

All courts in the State of Michigan – May 2000 - Present

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan- May 2000 - Present

18. Published Writings: List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published material you have written or edited. Please supply one copy of all published material not readily available to the public. Also, please supply a copy of

all speeches by you on issues involving constitutional law or legal policy. If there were press reports about the speech, and they are readily available to you, please supply them. If any of this material is available online, please include an appropriate link; if the material is available in print format only, please scan the text and append to your responses in electronic format.

N/A

19. With respect to the last five years:

a. Did you appear in court regularly, occasionally or not at all?

Regularly

b. What percentage of these appearances was in:

1) federal courts – 0%

2) state courts of record – 100% (50% Circuit, 50% District)

3) other courts –

c. What percentage of your litigation was:

1) Civil – 1%

2) Criminal – 99%

d. State the number of cases you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled) in courts of record, indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

As sole counsel - approx. 4

Co/associate counsel – approx. 6

e. What percentage of these trials were:

1) jury – 99%

2) non-jury – 1%

- f. If you believe the responses to (a) through (e) above do not reflect your experience, please describe any experience, which you consider the equivalent of trial experience.

I have handled numerous proceedings in addition to trials including, Preliminary Examinations, Motions, Evidentiary Hearings, Probation Violation Hearings, Parental Termination Hearings/Trials as LGAL, Driver Assessment and License Appeals, PPO Hearings, and Driver Reexamination Hearings over my 18 year career.

20. Describe two (2) of the most significant trials, litigated matters, or matters that would be representative of your litigation experience, which you personally handled and give the citations, if the cases were reported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case, the nature of your participation in the litigation, the date of disposition, the final disposition of the case, and a succinct statement of what you believe to be the particular significance of the case.

CASE #1:

In 2004 I worked for Attorney Neil Rockind. We represented an 18 year old boy that was charged with 3 counts of First Degree Murder of his parents and brother in Macomb County. The prosecutor and I worked very well together to come to a resolution to help this young man who clearly had mental illness. It was determined that he was on the wrong medication that exacerbated his mental condition. He slipped through the cracks and was not properly treated.

After lengthy discussions and several court proceedings/hearings we worked out a deal wherein our client was able to plead guilty but mentally ill to 3 Counts of Second Degree Murder, and Felony Firearm. We further agreed to a sentence based on Manslaughter guidelines, and mental health treatment while he was in prison.

Ensuring that people with mental illness (and addictions) receive treatment is not only a critical component of our criminal justice system, it is necessary for the health and welfare of our community.

CASE #2:

Earlier this year (2018), I was appointed Attorney Guardian Ad Litem (LGAL) to

protect the interests of a 1 year old boy that was removed from his parents, and placed in a loving foster home. Both of his parents are drug addicted and were charged with neglect, by allowing him to live in deplorable conditions. My job and priority is ensuring that my young client is safe and healthy throughout this process, with the ultimate goal of reunification with his parents. I am a tough LGAL, I require complete compliance with the parenting plan, proof of sobriety, work, and a stable home environment. I have had to recommend suspending parenting time with his mother, since she hasn't been in compliance with the Court's order. As the LGAL, I must make tough calls and recommendations to the Court that are in the best interest of my client. I have to be able to work as a team with Social Services, the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, Defense Attorneys, the foster parents and biological parents to ensure the best possible outcome for my young client.

The decisions that I make have a significant impact on several lives. Being entrusted with this monumental duty requires that I have the proper temperament, ability to be tough but fair, and work well with others.

21. Have you ever taught a law course at a college or law school? If so, provide particulars, including courses taught and any significant committee work or other contributions while a faculty member.

NO.

22. Describe any pro bono or community service activities in which you have engaged.

Over my 18 year career, I have done countless pro bono cases and I have been a Court Appointed Attorney/Public Defender in approximately 95% of my cases. I have helped to spread the addiction treatment program, Hope Not Handcuffs, across Oakland County, which is now in 21 of our Police Departments. This lifesaving preventative program assists police departments in helping their addicted citizens receive treatment.

23. Have you ever been admonished, reprimanded, suspended, disbarred or otherwise disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee or other professional group? If so, provide details and describe the conduct that led to discipline or citation.

NO.

24. Have you ever been convicted of any federal, state, county or municipal crime (excluding non-alcohol-related traffic offenses)? If yes, give details.

NO.

25. Are you aware of any physical, mental, substance abuse, substance addiction, or emotional health impediments to your serving in the judicial position you seek? If yes, give details.

NO.

26. Please provide the names of all organizations that have endorsed your candidacy. Also provide the names of all organizations for which you will, or have already, requested an endorsement including endorsements that are currently pending or have been denied.

Frank Kelley - FMR Attorney General of the State of Michigan for 37 years;

Samuel Bagenstos –Fmr Assistant Deputy Attorney General U.S. Dept of Justice-Civil Rights Division; Fmr Clerk to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg; Michigan Supreme Court Justice candidate;

Karen Meabrod – Keego Harbor City Council member

Sylvan Lake Police Officers

Sgt. Cary Glazer – Wayne State University Police Department Crime Abatement Team (CAT)

Dawn King- Assistant City Attorney of Southfield

Michelle Price-Miletic, LMSW – Psychotherapist/Certified Trauma Counselor and Substance Use Disorder/Addiction specialist

The Art of Hope, Healing and Happiness – Karen Pierce, MSW – Psychotherapist, Substance Use Disorder/Addiction specialist

Serenity Therapy Center – Raj Mehta, LMSW – Substance Use Disorder/Addiction specialist

Timothy Lahey - Ret. Lt. of the Bloomfield Fire Dept and Ret. Staff Sgt. U.S. Army Special Forces

Mark Faistenhammer- Ret. Task Force Officer for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and Task Force Officer for the River Rouge Police Department

Jeff Patterson- Ret. Taylor Police Department

Scott Vogler – Veteran U.S. Army Special Forces

Dr. Peter Lipson, MD – Board Certified internist

Dr. Zachary Lewis, DO and General Surgeon - Specializing in chronic pain and critical care medicine

Birmingham/Bloomfield Democratic Club

Fems for Dems

More to come...

27. Identify a current or former judge whom you admire and explain why.

JUDGE LINDA DAVIS. She not only runs a successful drug treatment program in 41-B District Court, she is the Chair of the Opioid Task Force in Michigan. She is also the President and Founder of Families Against Narcotics and Hope Not Handcuffs. She is a passionate advocate for those with addictions and has helped countless people receive treatment. Judge Davis has won several awards for her work, and was instrumental in getting critical legislation passed to fight the opioid epidemic. She has the ability to be tough, fair and compassionate; her community is lucky to have her. I believe she is the embodiment of what a judge should be.

28. What skills do you possess that qualify you for the judicial office you are seeking?

As an attorney for over 18 years, I understand the enormity of what we do for a living, whether I am representing someone that could lose their freedom, or representing a child that may be separated from their parents. Every day, I am tasked with making difficult decisions that affect countless lives. I must be unbiased, tough, compassionate and fair, simultaneously, putting aside any personal beliefs to do what is the best interest of my client. I can comprehend voluminous amounts of complex information, and make critical decisions quickly. I am excellent at listening

to all sides, multitasking, research and writing as well. But most importantly, I have the experience, leadership and passion to guide the 48th District Court into its next chapter. There are more innovative and creative approaches, to ongoing issues plaguing our community, that I would like to see implemented in the 48th District Court. Treatment programs that help our citizens are vital to the health and welfare of our community. They are proven to reduce recidivism rates and save taxpayers money, as an alternative to costly incarceration. Currently, there are 185 highly successful treatment courts across Michigan, unfortunately, the 48th District Court is not one of them. We can do better for our community.

29. How do you deal with difficult people, including peers, lawyers, judges, clients and litigants?

If it is a peer/other lawyer, I am usually able to smooth a situation over by acknowledging their side and what they want, and then explaining my side and where we can meet in the middle. If it is a difficult client, depending on what they are upset about or have an issue with, I have the ability to calm them down by explaining everything very clearly to them. Sometimes they just need to be heard and have their concerns acknowledged/addressed. If it is a judge, I always act respectfully and usually we have to just allow them to act difficult. Attorneys are not able to confront judges like we can another attorney or client. I am highly respected in the community and my peers/other lawyers, clients, and judges I am in front of can attest to my character and how I conduct myself.

30. If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?

I would call for a short recess and speak to the lawyer in chambers with the other side present, so I don't embarrass the attorney in the courtroom. I would give them an opportunity to explain what is going on and if I feel that the attorney is in over their head, I would tell them and see if a more experienced co-counsel can help handle the case. If it's a court appointed case, I would likely appoint a new attorney but have the original attorney shadow them and learn from their mistakes. I would under no circumstances embarrass the attorney or admonish them in front of their client, which would undermine them even more. I believe in teaching and learning from your mistakes.

31. Describe the three most important factors that you would consider in fashioning a sentence in a criminal case.

The 3 R's should always be the main factors in fashioning a sentence in a criminal case.

- 1) Retribution for the crime; the punishment should fit the crime.
- 2) Restitution to the victim/community and;
- 3) Rehabilitation of the defendant to ensure a safer and healthier community

32. When called upon to “interpret” law, what considerations do you believe appropriate, and what, if anything, should not be considered?

As a judge, I would be obligated to follow the Doctrine of Stare Decisis and only consider binding precedent. However, if I am required to “interpret” a law that hasn't previously been decided based on the facts/issue(s) presented, I believe it is appropriate to consider a number of factors; I may consult legislative history, discuss it with another judge, consider the community, and/or look to persuasive precedent from other jurisdictions, to name a few. I would not be afraid to break new ground, if necessary. Judges must be flexible and adapt to the changing needs of the community, while remaining consistent with the intent of the law.

My own personal thoughts, feelings and beliefs about the facts of the case should not be considered when “interpreting” the law.

II. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VOTER GUIDE

The League of Women Voters Oakland Area distributes a Voter Guide to assist and inform citizens in casting their ballots. In the Voter Guide the League will include the answers to the three items below, provided each of your answers is limited to no more than 125 words. Some of the information will have been included already in the answers to the preceding questions. Only the first 125 words will be printed in the League of Women Voters–Oakland Area’s Voter Guide.

1. Summarize your biography, including your education (degrees conferred, colleges and law school), career and employment experience, elected offices held, community service activity, organizational affiliations, and other pertinent information.

I earned my BA at University of Michigan-Dearborn and JD at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. While in law school, I interned at the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office and Attorney General’s Office Abuse and Neglect Division. I also interned/clerked for a Judge.

In 2000, I opened my own law practice, handling a variety of cases. From 2003-2005, I worked for Neil Rockind as an associate attorney. I went back to private practice in 2005 - Present.

I am helping to spread the addiction treatment program, Hope Not Handcuffs across Oakland County. This volunteer based program assists local police departments in helping their addicted citizens receive treatment.

I am a licensed commercial real estate broker. I draft and negotiate purchase agreements and leases.

2. Describe the general nature of your law practice or other legal work you have done, the typical clients you have represented, areas of specialty or concentration, and the geographic region of your practice.

I specialize in adult and juvenile criminal defense, handling both misdemeanors and low-level felony cases. I also serve as a court appointed attorney guardian (LGAL), protecting the interests of children in abuse and neglect cases. I primarily practice in courts across Oakland County.

I primarily represent people with addictions, especially those addicted to opioids and heroin. I am a strong supporter of treatment court programs, as an alternative to jail, for the health and welfare of our community. Currently, the 48th District Court does not have any treatment programs that are certified and monitored by the State of Michigan. These programs are proven to reduce recidivism rates, increase the

likelihood of sobriety, increase employment, and they save taxpayers money.

3. Why should voters elect (or re-elect) you to judicial office; what qualities (e.g. temperament, diligence, etc.) and experiences do you have that commend you to the judicial office you seek?

My broad range of experience has given me the unique understanding that there has to be a balance between being tough and being compassionate. It is not the role of the Judiciary to be an extension of the prosecutor's office or the police department. Likewise, judges are not defense attorneys and must hold people accountable for their actions. It is imperative that a judge applies the law in a fair, unbiased and impartial manner with the community foremost in mind. Because the needs of our community are constantly changing, judges must be willing to adapt to those changing needs, and not be set in their ways. I have the experience, leadership, and passion to be that judge.

Certificate of Accuracy

I, Amy J. Wechsler, hereby certify that all of the information contained in my answers to this Judicial Candidate Questionnaire are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I am a candidate for 48TH DISTRICT COURT JUDGE.

Date: 8/1/18

Amy J. Wechsler

Signature

AMY J. WECHSLER

Print