



Capital District Women's Bar Association
PO Box 3747
Albany, NY 12203
(888) 99-CDWBA
JTF@CDWBA.org
www.cdwba.org

2016 CDWBA Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

GUIDELINES

- (1) All candidates seeking judicial positions in the 3rd and 4th Judicial Districts for Supreme Court, Family Court, Surrogate's Court, County Court, City Court, and Town Court are invited to complete this Questionnaire.
- (2) All questions must be completed in order for this Questionnaire to be considered complete.
- (3) Responses to Questions 13 and 14 must be no more than five hundred (500) words each. To be complete, a response must address each subsection of Questions 13 and 14.
- (4) Complete Questionnaires will be printed verbatim in the CDWBA E-Blast, Fall Newsletter, and will be made available online on the CDWBA website. To the extent a response to Question 13 and/or 14 runs over five hundred (500) words, the response will be truncated to comply with the five hundred (500) word guideline.
- (5) Candidates who do not respond by the **September 13, 2016** deadline will be identified in the E-Blast and website with basic identifying information (name, current position and position sought), the date(s) the Questionnaire was distributed, as well as the phrase "No response received at this time". If you are participating in the Primary Election/Convention Process please submit your questionnaire before **September 9, 2015**.
- (6) The CDWBA may issue a press release and email blasts, which includes verbatim responses from complete Questionnaires, as well as identifying information on candidates who do not respond. Please note that while we will request that your comments be printed verbatim, we have no control over how news outlets may edit or editorialize your responses.
- (7) Any member of any Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY), including members of the CDWBA, seeking judicial office in the 3rd and 4th Judicial Districts will be invited to submit an article for the October edition of the CDWBA Newsletter. Articles must be received by **September 1st** and will be printed verbatim, subject to editing for length. Any submissions received after such date will be mentioned in the CDWBA weekly e-blast the week subsequent to submission.
- (8) The CDWBA reserves the right to edit and/or refuse to print in its newsletter any material it deems offensive or inappropriate for distribution to its membership.
- (9) Candidates are welcome to submit headshots (electronic files only). Photos must be submitted electronically via email to JTF@CDWBA.org.
- (10) **DEADLINE.** Completed Questionnaire must be postmarked by **September 13, 2016** or be received via email at JTF@CDWBA.org by **September 13, 2016**.

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

- (1) Name William A. Carter
- (2) Mailing Address 274 Woodlawn Avenue, Albany, NY 12208
- (3) Phone Number (518) 458-7517 (4) Date of Birth 09/30/1959
- (5) Email Address wcarter@nycourts.gov

EDUCATION/ADMISSION INFORMATION

- (6) Name of College and Degree Obtained University at Albany, School of Social Welfare, BSW
- (7) Law School and Graduation Date Albany Law School, June 1, 1991
- (8) Admission Date in New York State March 2, 1992 (9) Department of Admission Third

EXPERIENCE

- (10) Current Position and Years in Position Albany City Court Judge. 14 years.
- (11) Prior Position Held the Longest (Name, and Years in Position)
Associate attorney, Law Office of Castillo and Associates for 6 years.
- (12) Prior Elective Offices Held (Judicial and Otherwise): This is my second 10 year term as City Court Judge.

QUALIFICATIONS

- (13) Indicate whether you have ever been disciplined by a Committee on Judicial Conduct or any Attorney Grievance Committee either in or out of New York State and if so, why. (a) Explain why you are qualified for the position you seek. Include a discussion of (b) your practice experience, (c) your litigation experience generally and (d) your experience appearing before the court to which you seek election.
- (14) (a) Explain how the principles of diversity and equality enter into your current practice and (b) how they will be furthered if you become a member of the bench or if you continue on the bench. (c) Explain what activities or programs you have participated in concerning advocacy for women and families. (d) Explain how you would respond if a woman or minority attorney or litigant complained of discriminatory mistreatment in a matter (e.g., motion, deposition, hearing, trial, etc.) pending before your court. (e) Discuss any experience you have dealing with victims of domestic violence.

Qualifications Question #13 and #14

I was censured by the Commission on Judicial Conduct in 2006 for an incident that occurred in the courtroom. I accepted full responsibility for my actions and did not contest the Commission's ruling.

I was appointed Albany City Court Judge in 2001 and was elected to that position in 2002. Upon my appointment to the bench in 2001, being of African American and Japanese descent, I became the first judge of Color and the first judge of Asian Pacific Islander descent in the Third Judicial District. I believe that diversity in the judiciary is important so that all who come to court believe that they are being treated fairly and impartially.

I attended the State University of New York at Albany, School of Social Welfare where I received my B.S.W. I began my legal career in law enforcement as a New York State Trooper. I received several commendations, including a Superintendent's Commendation. I left the New York State Police to attend Albany Law School. Upon graduation in 1991, I became an Assistant District Attorney for the County of Albany and prosecuted both felony and misdemeanor level offenses in the Narcotics Unit.

I also served as a New York State Assistant Attorney General, in the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau. I was the lead attorney for the Capital District Illegal Guns Compact. This early attempt by the Attorney General to create a joint agency task force to combat the illegal use of firearms required me to be cross-designated as an Assistant United States Attorney and an Assistant District Attorney for Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga Counties.

I then left the Office of the Attorney General to enter private practice with the Law Office of Castillo and Associates. During this time, I was appointed an Associate Capital Defender and represented indigent defendants in death penalty cases. I then returned to the Office of the Albany County District Attorney as the Chief Assistant District Attorney. My experience in almost every part of the criminal justice system has given me a perspective that makes me uniquely qualified for the position of Albany County Court Judge.

In 2005, the Legal Project of the Capital District Women's Bar Association and the Albany Law School Domestic Violence Clinic recommended that I preside over the newly created Albany City Domestic Violence Court. This problem-solving court was the only full-time, dedicated domestic violence court in the region. I was made an Acting County Court Judge in order to preside over the Domestic Violence Court. In 2012, the Court was chosen to receive a grant in the amount of \$397,335.00 by the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women and is considered a model court. My work with this court over the years is proof of my commitment to the victims of domestic abuse. I also preside over a Veterans Court with the assistance of the Veterans Administration.

I have been an Adjunct Law Professor at Albany Law School since 2005. I have been a volunteer judge for the Albany Law School Senior Trials Competition and have served as a mentor for the Albany Law School Black Law Students Association. I have also served as a mentor for the New York Legal Education Opportunity Program under the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities.

I received The Frederick Douglass Struggle for Justice Award from The Center for Law and Justice in 2002. I was recognized by the City of Albany Common Council during Black History Month for service to the community in 2008. In 2009, I was presented with an award and

certificate of appreciation as a Next Generation Community Leader from Governor David A. Paterson and the Israel A.M.E. Church. I received the Friend of the Family Award from In Our Own Voices in 2012 for my outreach work to the LGBT community. I was also honored at the 2015 NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner and, in 2016, I received the Community Service Award from the Cote d'Ivoire United Corporation and the Anuanzeh Association of United Women of the Capital District, Inc.

I am a sustaining member of the Capital District Women's Bar Association and also belong to the New York State Bar Association, the Albany County Bar Association, the Capital District Black and Hispanic Bar Association, the NAACP and the Sons of the American Legion.

During my tenure on the bench, it has always been my goal to see that everyone who appeared in court was treated fairly, impartially and in accordance with the law. As a former police officer, prosecutor and defense attorney who represented mostly minority defendants in courtrooms where the majority of the other participants were white males, I fully understand the importance of a diverse judiciary. I will continue as County Court Judge to see that all participants feel included in the process. If any complaints are made to me about discriminatory practices, I will address them with the parties involved and take the appropriate action just as I do now as judge.