

Examine candidates

Another election day approaches, and attorneys Mary Ann Bistline, Daniel Milliron, Timothy Sullivan, Norman Callan and Michael Rouch are vying to fill two judgeships in Blair County.

What do these candidates offer that merits endowing them this position of authority? Are two of these candidates going to be bestowed this awesome judicial power on the public's perceptions that they intrinsically have some special knowledge and ability to interpret and apply the law fairly? Will it just be the flashiest no-issue billboard or poster campaign that brings home the prize for one of these candidates?

Shouldn't the public care that these candidates will uphold the constitution and laws of the state?

Do these candidates believe in equal rights for both parents in divorce cases?

We have a family court system that awards custody in excess of 93 percent of the time to mothers in custody disputes. If a father is lucky, the state may award him the privilege of visiting his children every other weekend and a single weeknight dinner.

Over a period of months or years, many fathers wrongfully will lose all contact with their children. Judges rarely enforce visitation orders in custody cases.

In family court, constitutional protections routinely are substituted with the open-ended catch phrase "best interest of the child."

Complaints about gender bias, misapplication of law or outright judicial fraud are ignored. Consistently judges are not held accountable.

Before voting for a judicial candidate, question and examine the merits of these lawyers so that another child doesn't lose a parent because of a judge who refuses to properly conduct hearings and fairly apply the law. It only takes a few minutes of your time to cast a wrong vote, but the wrong choice can cost helpless children a lifetime of abuse and emotional suffering.

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