

1. What life and professional experiences do you bring to this position? How might these experiences influence your work as a judge?

I bring diverse cultural and judicial experience. I was enrolled in kindergarten at a Spanish language immersion school. My classmates and I were taught and spoke only Spanish. At this age, I understood and appreciated other communities as if my own. I majored in Criminal Justice and Spanish. Interning at an immigration law firm allowed me to help non-citizens with immigration concerns in their own language. I also bring judicial experience to my candidacy. For 47 days, I have been appointed to be a judge pro tempore for unavailable judges. As a judge pro tem, I have shown a respectful judicial temperament and made sound, impartial decisions. Changes made and required by the Indiana Supreme Court have revolutionized the justice system. Odyssey, the program used by all courts, makes files and paper orders a thing of the past. My recent judicial experience has familiarized me with this system. If elected, I am ready on day one to serve the citizens of Monroe County in this paperless system.

2. How could the court system be assessed for unintentional racial bias? What should be done if evidence of bias is discovered?

I recognize systemic racial bias, whether implicit or overt, exists in our country's courts. I endorse the National Center for State Court's initiative: identify, address, facilitate conversations about implicit bias; further evidence-based practices in throughout the justice system, especially sentencing; increase racial and ethnic diversity in the bench, support and professional staff and the Bar; collect and report court data about race and ethnicity to identify and remedy racial disparities. I would also take advantage of all judicial education on this topic to heighten the sensitivity of judges and other stake holders.

3. What types of actions would you pursue as a judge in your courtroom to make sure that all parties can be heard and that they perceive the proceedings as fair?

A timely hearing on issues and a fair application of law is always a Judge's responsibility. I would ensure parties have sufficient opportunity to present evidence and make argument. A proper ruling would not be perceived as fair if this is not done. The use of technology for those who cannot come to court provides a means for them to be meaningfully present. Appointment of counsel and translators to assist indigent defendants is another tool courts use. When a defendant is able to hire their own counsel but unable to pay certain expenses, the court can provide funds for investigators, experts or depositions to ensure fairness under the rules for representation in non-capital cases.

4. As the county looks to make major improvements to its Criminal Justice Center, what efforts can be made to deter recidivism?

The judicial candidate for Seat 7 who is elected this November will be a member of the Board of Judges. Together all judges combine their efforts, intellect and skills to determine the path of justice in our County. As pointed out in the Criminal Justice Study, one of the most critical issues being considered is undertaking the construction of a new jail. It is not one made without

the cooperation, experience and determination of the Monroe County Commissioners, County Council, Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, other private defense attorneys and the public. Together, the Board of Judges and all Stakeholders must tackle this pressing issue.

I have the communication skills to cooperatively work with not only the Board of Judges but also other stakeholders. All options must be explored to anticipate funding, transportation, balancing of dockets and sufficient personnel for the Sheriff as well as the court, prosecutors, public defenders and private defense attorneys. Any change that is made will have cascading effects among all of the stakeholders in the criminal justice system. It is important that all of these effects are taken into account throughout the process.

I have a solid foundation to actively and meaningfully participate in this process. I am committed to working with all involved to explore the effects of proposed changes, make the best decisions for our county and efficiently implement them.

I also am committed to the continued use of problem-solving courts and appropriate alternatives to incarceration such as community corrections, home detention and therapeutic communities. These programs have been shown to reduce recidivism which in turn affects the number of men and women in our county jail.