



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: P. Daniel Christ
2. Name as it will appear on the ballot: Dan Christ
3. Judicial Office you are seeking: Oakland Circuit Court Judge (non-incumbent)
4. Campaign website address: www.christforjudge.com
5. Community in which you live: Bloomfield Township
6. Date of Birth: August 7, 1965
Place of Birth: Southfield, Michigan
7. Have you ever been known by another name not listed above? YES NO

If YES, what was it? Paul Daniel Christ

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 for 25 years.

Ann DeCaminada Christ
Attorney
Hafeli, Staran & Christ, P.C.
2055 Orchard Lake Road
Sylvan Lake, MI 48320

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.

United States Marine Corp.
Platoon Leadership Program, Quantico, Va. 1985

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

Michigan State University, B.A., 1987
University of Detroit School of Law, J.D., 1991

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.

Beecham Products, Inc. Sales, 1987-1988

- 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.

Collins, Einhorn, Farrell & Ulanoff, P.C. 1989
Shearson Lehman Hutton, Inc. 1990
Chrysler Corporation Office of the General Counsel 1990-1991
DeNardis, McCandless & Muller, P.C. 1991-1992

Beier Howlett, P.C. 1993-2005
Hafeli, Staran & Christ, P.C. 2005-Present

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. N/A

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.

I ran for an open seat for the Oakland County Circuit Court in 2012. There were five candidates and I was one of the two who advanced through the primary election. I was unsuccessful in the general election.

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

Martindale Hubbell AV Preeminent peer-review rated-highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards.

Rated Michigan Super Lawyer in State, Local and Municipal Practice-
Michigan Super Lawyers publication.

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. N/A

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.

Michigan Bar Association
Michigan Council of School Attorneys
Michigan Council of School Attorneys, President 2001
Oakland County Bar Association
Oakland County Bar Association- Municipal Law Committee
Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys
American Bar Association

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.

Michigan State Courts, 1991
United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, 1992
United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 1995
United States Supreme Court, 1996

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.

National Business Institute, 1997; Michigan School Law Seminar
Lorman Education Services, 2002; Public Records and Open Meetings
Lorman Education Services, 2006; Zoning and Land Use in Michigan

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 5

- 2) state courts of record 90
- 3) other courts 5

c. What percentage of your litigation was:

- 1) civil 25
- 2) criminal 75

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. 75 (sole counsel)

e. What percentage of these trials were:

- 1) jury 10
- 2) non-jury 90

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.

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.

Pure Waters v MDNR, et al; 873 FSupp 41 (E.D. Mich 1996); 82 F3d 418 (6th Cir. 1996). Defended challenge under the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) and Michigan Environmental Protection Act (“MEPA”) against multi-million dollar project involving construction of stormwater/sewer retention basin. Handled all appeal briefing

and oral arguments in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals and appellate brief in opposition to writ of certiorari before the United States Supreme Court.

Case upheld municipal investment of hundreds of millions of dollars and decision-making process in determining appropriate action to address flooding and implementation of pollution controls in communities consistent with federal and state law.

City of Ferndale v Florence Cement, 269 Mich App 452 (2006); 2008 Mich App LEXIS 1401 (2008). Litigated breach of construction contract regarding defective concrete roadway claim. Successful appeal of summary disposition ruling and judgment resulting in complete recovery, costs and attorney fees for client.

Case upheld construction rules for interpreting and applying contract as written which best reflects the parties intent and agreement.

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. N/A

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

Adam's Square Homeowner's Association-past president

Volunteer in Rebuild Together, Oakland County, providing free housing repair to low-income homeowners in Oakland County.

Volunteer for South Oakland Shelter at Saint Hugo of the Hills.

Leader Dog of Michigan- volunteer puppy raiser.

Supporter of Angel's Place serving people with developmental disabilities.

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.

Multiple groups and individuals throughout Oakland County and Southeast Michigan (refer to my website for the most recent list)

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

Oakland Circuit Court Judge Cheryl Matthews: Appearing before her, I find her to always be prepared and informed on the issue before her. She is professional and courteous with counsel and the litigants. She is even-handed, works hard and has integrity while upholding the independence of the judiciary.

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

Having practiced law in Oakland County for over twenty-seven (27) years, I have the broad experience in both criminal and civil matters and the perspective of a practitioner who understands the delicate balance of client expectations and court requirements. I am open-minded, hard-working and will to listen to all points of view before making a decision. I have the temperament to control the courtroom while promoting civility amongst the parties.

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

I listen carefully and make sure I understand the issue/point being addressed. When faced with belligerence, I try to refocus the individual on the facts of the matter rather than argument. I strive to maintain personal control and do not allow myself to be baited by incivility or personal attacks.

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

Consistent with the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct, confer with both attorneys in the case as to the rules of conduct for the court and the expectations on being prepared in order to do justice for their respective clients.

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

There are several factors to be considered in determining the appropriate criminal sentence. Three important factors include: 1) whether anyone was hurt and whether the defendant poses a danger to society; 2) whether the offender was particularly cruel/destructive and whether the defendant shows any remorse, and 3) whether the defendant is a “first time” or repeat offender.

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

My responsibility as a judge is to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and State of Michigan. My responsibility is to apply the law as written by the elected legislature and not to substitute my opinion on what the law should or could be. In my opinion application of “natural law” or foreign law text is inappropriate for use in interpreting laws decided by our elected representatives.

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 am fifty-two years old and a life-long Oakland County resident. I have been married to my wife, Ann, for twenty-five years and we are the proud parents of three children. I attended Michigan State University graduating in 1987 and graduated from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1991.

For twenty-seven (27) years I have practiced law, representing individuals, businesses and public corporations. I have litigated cases on my clients’ behalf- protecting their interests and making sure their rights are protected. I have prosecuted criminals and protected victims of crime to make sure that justice is served.

For most of my career, I have been with the firm of Beier Howlett, P.C. and my current firm of Hafeli, Staran & Christ, P.C. I am running for the non-incumbent position on the Oakland County Circuit Court to serve the citizens of Oakland County. I am the most experienced, most qualified candidate for this position.

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.

My practice consists of representing individuals, small businesses and cities, villages and townships and other entities in Oakland County and Metro-Detroit. For over a quarter-century, I provide general counsel to my clients and have handled all manner of civil litigation, including business disputes, zoning and land use matters, construction disputes, tort and liability matters, divorce proceedings, criminal matters and have also prosecuted thousand cases of criminal violations and crimes on behalf of my municipal clients.


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 twenty-seven years as a practicing attorney with broad ranging civil trial experience and criminal prosecution trial experience distinguishes me from the other candidate who has never tried any type of case and never represented a client. I have integrity and will be faithful to the law. I have the experience and character to make hard decisions after full consideration of the facts. I have a reputation of being open-minded and pragmatic. I have the right temperament to be patient and courteous to the parties appearing before the court. My legal perspective acquired over twenty-seven years and life perspective makes me the most experienced and most qualified candidate for Oakland Circuit Court judge.

Certificate of Accuracy

I, P. Daniel Christ, 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 the Oakland Circuit Court (non-incumbent position).

Date: 8/1/18



Signature

P. Daniel Christ

Print