



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2021 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Casilda Elena Roper-Simpson **Office Sought:** Kings County Civil Court
Candidate Email Address: ropersimpson@gmail.com **Candidate Phone Number:** 347 631-7540
Campaign Contact Name: Joy Foster **Campaign Contact Phone:** 347 742-9574
Campaign Contact Email: hello@ropersimpson4judge.com
Name of person filling out this questionnaire: Casilda Elena Roper-Simpson

Please answer each of the following questions to the best of your ability:

1) Are you the incumbent? If yes, how many years/terms have you served?

I am not an Incumbent.

2) Have you been endorsed by CBID before? If so, in what year(s) and for what office(s)?

No

3) What portion of campaign funds do you expect to self-fund? What do you expect to spend in support of your candidacy? If you are accepting outside donations what, if any, groups or industries will you not accept campaign contributions from? If any, please note specifically whose money you will not accept.

I expect to self-fund approximately 50% of my campaign.

I expect to spend approximately \$100,000.00 in support of my candidacy.

As a judicial candidate, I am not allowed to ask for donations. As such, I do not know who donates.

4) What endorsements from community leaders, elected officials, political organizations or newspapers have you received thus far?

At this time, I am still meeting with community leaders, elected officials, political organizations and newspapers to garner support and/or endorsements.

5) Is your candidacy receiving any support from the Kings County Democratic Party? If so, what type? (note that this includes any assistance in printing and collecting signatures for petitions even if you are ultimately paying for this assistance)

No



6) What sitting Supreme Court justice do you most admire and why?

Judge Krause---As a young attorney, I recall appearing in front of Judge Krause, and because I was always so aggressive in my bail arguments, I remember how patient she was in allowing me to continue to argue even after she made a decision on bail, where I would say, "Judge, understanding your decision, but can you keep in mind that my client would..." and she would look at me with her "silent, non-verbal look of approval" that she understood my continuous argument and the need to make a record, and she didn't "shut me down." I admired Judge Krause because she was *respectful*. Oftentimes during my 25 years of practice, I have appeared in front of judges who, although they understand that attorneys are required to "zealously" represent their clients, they frequently interfered.

Judge Larry Martin---During my tenure as an attorney, I've had the privilege of appearing in front of Judge Martin for motion calendar, as well as for both criminal and civil trials. I admired Judge Martin for the manner in which he handled the trials, more particularly, a specific trial that involved young men, (3), charges with armed robbery. With the trial being extremely emotional, he maintained calm in the courtroom. I admired his courtroom management with the number of defense attorneys, prosecution, and the defendants and their family. I was privy at the time to witness and appreciate the smoothness in his management of the various objections, making of record and his time management to accommodate the jurors and due process.

Judge Schack---I appeared in front of the late Judge Schack in both Criminal Court and Civil Court. In Criminal Court, some described Judge Schack as "tough." Judge Schack followed the law, plain and simple. I admired him for that. Judges are able to use discretions but they must follow the letter of the law. During my appearances in front of Judge Schack in Civil Court, he had his computer on his desk and if you cited a case that he didn't know, he looked it up. He was prepared, his courtroom was efficient and to me, he was pleasant and fair. He had his expectations of attorneys that appeared in his courtroom, and those of us that appeared in front of him knew that we had to be prepared.

Judge Hinds-Radix---I appeared in front of Judge Hinds-Radix in Criminal Court and Civil Court. In either court, I knew when I made an argument in front of Judge Hinds-Radix, that she was *listening*. Most importantly, listening to both sides. In both courts, she asked and inquired further if she saw a need. There's usually the premise that a judge is either pro prosecution/plaintiff or defense/defendant, however, judges are required to not be one-sided. Judge Hinds-Radix was also always very pleasant. If she had a bad day, I never saw it on any of the occasions I appeared in front of Judge Hinds-Radix.

What I have learned from the Judges that I mentioned above and many more that I have appeared in front of over the last 25 years of practice is that it is important to be respectful, impartial, temperamental and provide equal justice to all!

7) Please include as a link or attachment the following documents:

- a. Citations for your three most significant decisions (if a judge). Not applicable
- b. Resume – Please see attached
- c. Any published articles pertinent to the office you seek. -Not applicable
- d. Any application filled out for other organizations – Not Applicable



8) If you are currently serving as a Judge please list the names and contact information of the lawyers involved in the last three written opinions that you have issued. If not a judge, please provide the names and contact information of three professional references.

1. Andreas E. Theodosiou, Esq. – cell (917) 968-9348

2. Carol McCarville, Esq. – cell (631) 276-3439

3. Howard Schwartz, Esq. – cell (718) 208-6094

9) Provide citations to your last 5 published opinions. If you have less than 5, please provide copies of enough unpublished opinions to bring the total to 5. All published decisions first, then fill in the balance with the most recent unpublished decisions.

Not Applicable

10) Are you a member of a political club, or have you ever been? If yes, what is the name of the club? And what positions have you held? Please include dates.

Not Applicable

11) Have you ever been elected to any public office or political party position? If so, please describe the office or position. Not applicable

12) Have you performed any pro bono work in the past three years? Please describe the type of pro bono work you have performed.

Provided Legal Consultation for the following organization –

Life Camp – A non-violence organization

The goal of LIFE Camp, Inc. is to reduce violence in the community by promoting peaceful actions as a formula to create a better, happier society.

Reign4Life – Reviewed documentation for the organization for re-entry housing for recently released men
The Mission Statement of Reign 4 Life to prevent young and adolescent at-risk boys and girls in from joining gangs to assist them.



13) What Civic Organizations do you belong to? Please describe that the organization does, and what role you play within the organization. For each Civic Organization, provide contact information for the Executive Director, CEO or organization head. If you are the executive Director or organization leader, please provide the contact information for at least one Board Member.

Square Circle

A support group for women to sit and talk, commune, and share stories. Understanding in our community that many women are surviving situations such as; homelessness, domestic violence, single parenthood, other illnesses on top of other challenging social and economic dynamics.

Founder – Nayaba Arinde – (646) 239-2018

Role – Board Member

The Brooklyn United Music and Arts Program

A community-based organization that serves New York City youth. As an art form, marching band combines the elements of musicianship and pageantry –

Founder - Ty Brown - (347) 264-4069

Role - Mentor - mentoring three young high school ladies

Boys & Girls School HS Campus -

Lady Kangaroos Basketball Program

Fundraising Committee – Goal to raise money to attend trips, purchase athletic apparel, miscellaneous needs

Contact – Coach Anthony Joseph (718) 576-5500

Role – Member

Black Law Enforcement Alliance

Organization mission to provide information to the community. The activist think-tank. Human & Civil Rights advocates with Law Enforcement experience.

Co-Founder - Marquez Claxton – (917) 939-3750

Role- Director of Public Relation

100 Blacks of Law Enforcement who Cares

An American New York City-based advocacy group which focuses on fighting injustices between the African American community and their interactions with the New York City Police Department.

Co-Founder – Marquez Claxton – (917) 939-3750

Role – Member –Legal Committee

NAACP – Brooklyn Branch 1397 Fulton Street

To secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.

Contact – President Margret Thomas

Role – Life-Time member and former co-director of legal redress committee, created rotation internship to



address the backlog of community legal questions/issues

LIONS Club – Stuy-Park

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs. To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

Contact – Myra Crumpe – (718) 629-0252

Role – Member – Annual Dinner Dance Committee

14) What bar associations do you belong to? What sections or committees do you belong to? What is your role with the section or committee?

Metropolitan Black Bar Association

Role – Co-Chair Civil Rights Division

Caribbean American Lawyers Association (CALA)

Role- Women History Committee

15) List any CLE's that you have taught within the last three years, if any. Please provide a syllabus if one is available.

3/2/2019 – Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. Trial Advocacy Program -Sixth Annual Summation

3/7/2020 – Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. Trial Advocacy Program -Seventh Annual

1)Ethical Considerations in Trial Practice and

2)Trial Skills for Other Matters (Arbitration, Administrative Hearings & Depositions)