

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE ARTHUR J. GLATFELTER INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RELEASES
YORK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION JUDICIAL CANDIDATE POLL RESULTS**

[York, PA – May 7, 2021] The Arthur J. Glatfelter Institute for Public Policy at the York College of Pennsylvania conducted a poll of members of the York County Bar Association regarding the three candidates running for the two judicial vacancies on the Court of Common Pleas in York County. The 470 members of the York County Bar Association were given an opportunity to evaluate all candidates, with the evaluation of prospective candidates focused primarily on professional competence, judicial temperament, and integrity.

The judicial evaluation poll is a long-standing community service activity of the York County Bar Association. The poll was undertaken as a public service and not for the purpose of endorsing any specific candidate or any political party. It is not a popularity poll. The results are offered as a resource to the public in determining which candidates are most qualified serve as judges on the York County Court of Common Pleas.

In past polls, members of the York County Bar Association were asked to provide a single rating based on three categories for each of the candidates.

This year, the 2021 Judicial Candidate Poll asked members of the York County Bar Association to rate each candidate on specific qualities. Members rated each candidates as “Highly Qualified,” “Qualified,” “Not Presently Qualified,” or “No Opinion.”

A rating of “Highly Qualified” equates to 5 points. A ranking of “Qualified” equates to 3 points. A ranking of “Not Presently Qualified” equates to 1 point. A ranking of “No Opinion” equates to 0 points.

For a candidate to be rated as “Highly Qualified”, they must receive a minimum of 86 points. For a candidate to rated “Qualified”, they must receive between 60-85 points. For a candidate to be rated as “Not Presently Qualified”, they must receive less than 60 points. The final ratings consist of the average of the total points received divided by the number of respondents.

The York County Bar Association and its members serve in the unique role of judicial officers in our community. For anyone who participates in any proceedings in the local legal system, whether as a party or a witness, and whether the case involves a civil, domestic, or criminal matter, nothing matters more than the opportunity to be heard before a fair, impartial, and qualified judge. The reputation our court system and its judges enjoy in the impartial administration of justice and application of the law contributes to the overall stability and security of the public and provides certainty, stability, and clarity to our personal and commercial relationships.

263 members participated in the poll. This equates to a 56% response rate. The results were tabulated and released on May 7, 2021. The results of the survey are as follows:

Overall Results – Average Score Out of 100 Points	
Joe Gothie	43 – Not Presently Qualified
Suzanne Smith	75 – Qualified
Steve Stambaugh	32 – Not Presently Qualified

The following tables provide detailed results of the specific qualities assessed by members of the York County Bar Association.

Professional Competence – Average Score Out of 5 Points			
	Joe Gothie	Suzanne Smith	Steve Stambaugh
Intellectual Capacity	2	4	2
Judgement	2	4	2
Legal writing	2	3	1
Analytical ability	3	4	2
Industry, or knowledge of the law	3	4	2
Scholarship and academic talent	2	3	1
Professional contributions	2	4	1
Professional experience	3	4	2
Law school teaching	1	2	1
Public service	2	4	1
AVERAGE TOTAL SCORE (OUT OF 50)	22	36	15

Judicial Temperament – Average Score Out of 5 Points			
	Joe Gothie	Suzanne Smith	Steve Stambaugh
Compassion and open-mindedness	2	4	2
Decisiveness	3	4	2
Sensitivity	2	4	1
Courtesy	2	4	2
Patience	2	4	2
Freedom from bias	2	4	1
Commitment to justice	3	4	2
AVERAGE TOTAL SCORE (OUT OF 35)	16	28	12

Integrity – Average Score Out of 5 Points			
	Joe Gothie	Suzanne Smith	Steve Stambaugh
Character	2	4	2
General reputation in the legal community	2	4	2
General reputation in the non-legal community	1	3	1
AVERAGE TOTAL SCORE (OUT OF 15)	5	11	5

Established in 1787, York College of Pennsylvania is a private, four-year college located in the city of York, a hub of arts and industry between Baltimore and Philadelphia. Housed on 190 picturesque acres, the college is known for its focus on experiential learning and community engagement, serving over 4,000 undergraduate and 300+ graduate students in more than 70 baccalaureate majors, along with 20+ graduate and professional programs. Deeply rooted in the liberal arts and recognized for excellence in its professional nursing, business, engineering, and education programs, York is ranked among the nation's top 50 Best Value Schools by U.S. News. The College's robust recreation and athletics program is among the best in the region, and is home to 23 NCAA III Division sports teams and 30+ intramural sports. A Princeton Review Best Northeastern College, York prides itself on its experienced, engaged faculty; its high-impact

and student-centric philosophy; and its long-standing commitment to affordability and accessibility.

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