

**THE ERIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE**

**2015 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES**

Candidate's Name: **John J. "Jamie Mead**

Office Address: **150 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Eric, PA 16501**

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1. Why are you seeking the position of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas?

**I have dedicated my life to the study and practice of the law. My family has a long tradition of service to our community. I view the opportunity to serve as a judge in the Erie County Court of Common Pleas as a way for me to bring my more than 30 years of legal expertise and experience to the service of our community.**

2. Being careful to maintain client confidentiality as embodied in the Rule 1.6 of the Rules of Professional Conduct, describe the general character of your law practice, including areas of concentration and the most significant achievements of your legal career. Explain how your practice has prepared you for the position of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

**I have been a trial lawyer my entire career. The clients I have represented over the past 31 years range from the United States of America and Fortune 500 companies, to indigent defendants charged with the most serious crimes, including first degree murder. I have been fortunate to have practiced nearly every type of law which is seen in the Court of Common Pleas. In each case, I have understood what is at stake, the importance of confidentiality and the necessity of compliance with both the spirit and the letter of the law. I sincerely believe there is no place for "on the job training" for any judge, at the expense of those before the court. I believe my extensive experience in the courtroom has prepared me to be able to faithfully serve, on the bench, representing the best interests of the people of Erie County.**

3. With respect to the last ten years:

a) Did you appear in court regularly, occasionally, or not at all? If the frequency of your appearances in court has varied during this period, describe each such variance, giving the dates thereof:

**I have appeared in court on a regular basis for the past 31 years.**

b) What percentage of these appearances was in:

- Federal courts: 10%
- State courts of record: 85%
- Other courts: 5%

c) What percentage of your litigation was:

- Civil: 50%
- Criminal: 50%

d) State the number of cases in courts of record you tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel or associate counsel:

**In courts of record, I have tried more than 100 cases, to verdict or judgment. In the vast majority of these case I was sole counsel.**

e) What percentage of these trials were:

- Jury: 95%
- Non-jury: 5%

f) Describe other areas of practice:

**My legal and litigation experience includes antitrust, environmental law, environmental insurance coverage, criminal prosecution and defense (including internal corporate criminal investigations), commercial disputes, personal injury, family law, product liability, labor law (particularly employment discrimination), toxic torts, banking law, class actions, medical malpractice, civil rights and general contractual actions.**

4. Have you ever been convicted of any misdemeanor or felony, court-martialed, been granted immunity from prosecution, or been the subject of a protection from abuse final order? If so, give details. No

5. Have you ever been the subject of formal discipline for a breach of professional ethics or unprofessional conduct?

No

6. Have you ever been found liable for legal malpractice?

No

7. In the last 10 years:

a) has a tax lien or other collection proceeding ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities?

No

b) has a judgment been entered against you?

No

c) have you ever filed personal bankruptcy?

No

If so, give details.

8. Do you have experience with ADR? If so, give details.

**Yes, as a litigant.**

9. Which judges or justices do you most admire and why?

**I have always admired those justices who took the responsibilities of their office in a serious manner. From the Supreme Court to the Erie County Court of Common Pleas, I have always admired those who allowed the litigants in their court to try the merits of their case through the judicial process without open "coaching" or undue criticism from the bench. Those judges were professional and approachable, yet they never forgot their role; nor did they ever "overstep" their duties or authority. They were also the same person on the bench as they were outside of the courtroom.**

10. If a substantial period of your practice has been before administrative boards, commissions or agencies during the past five years, identify the boards, commissions or agencies before which you have practiced and estimate percentages of practice time devoted thereto:

N/A

11. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law or the holding of judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including dates:

**I have been actively involved in my family business for most of my life, in one way or another. I currently sit on the company's Board of Directors.**

**I also helped bring the NBA Development Team to Erie, as a minority owner of the Erie Bayhawks.**

12. Describe your involvement in community activities.

**My parents taught me, at a very early age, just how important it was to be a good citizen and to be actively involved in the community, "giving back" whenever and wherever possible. As an owner of the regional newspaper, my father taught me the responsibility to accurately bring the news to the region and to show appreciation for the support the paper received from the community, through the donation of our time, talents and resources to worthy causes. It wasn't a "chore" or something we sought recognition or "credit" for; it was a natural part of our life and one of the many things today for which I am so thankful to my parents. That spirit or philosophy is something my wife and I are now sharing with our own young children. This is our home, our history and our heritage; we believe in service and we will help whenever we can.**

**My active involvement ranges from minority ownership of a local sports team to board involvement on civic and community organizations, to mentoring young people, and active participation in athletic/community events as well as a number of fundraising activities for worthwhile efforts and organizations.**

13. What do you consider a significant achievement in your life outside your profession? Describe it.

**The most significant aspect of my life outside of my profession is my family. I strive to be the best possible husband to my wife Blair and the best father I can be to my son James and my daughter Adala.**

**I was blessed with young children later in life and I believe I have a greater appreciation of them than I might have had in my youth. I am constantly amazed with every aspect of their life, and I try to be sure that they never have to doubt how important they are or how much their parents love them.**

**I would consider their happiness, safety and healthy development to be my most significant achievement.**

14. Do any circumstances exist that would affect your ability to perform the function of the position you seek or fulfill the term of office? If so, please explain:

No

15. Describe your involvement in Erie County Bar Association activities.

**I am an active member of the Erie County Bar Association. I currently serve as a member of the Board of Directors. I have served as a volunteer and mentor with the "Attorneys and Kids" program since the initiation of the program, and I am on the Committee of our annual Lawyer's 5K Run. I have also served as a former chairman of the ECBA's criminal practice section.**

16. How do you view the current relationship between the Bench and the Bar of Erie County? Do you think it can be improved? What would you do to maintain or improve relations between the Bench and the Bar if elected to the position of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas?

**I have always found the relationship between the Bench and the Bar to be one of cooperation. I believe the judges know they have a responsibility to serve as a role model in the way they conduct themselves in and out of the courtroom, to the attorneys practicing before them, and to the community as a whole. If elected, I will do my best to continue and expand that role, to include more active support for education and awareness regarding the law, especially among at-risk youth in our community. Together, I believe attorneys and judges can work to help at-risk youth to potentially avoid a criminal future and to become more aware of the resources/ community programs available to them and their families.**

17. Do you believe it is important for a Judge to remain involved in Erie County Bar Association activities? Please explain:

**Absolutely. I believe it is important for a judge to continue his/her professional development through a relationship with the ECBA, its publications, programs and resources. Active exposure to the healthy professional dialogue which takes place through the ECBA is also a great way for a judge to "keep a finger on the pulse" of the local legal community.**

18. What do you envision to be your continuing role with the Erie County Bar Association should you be elected? Would you attend substantive and social gatherings of that Bar Association?

**I would maintain an active ECBA membership. I would hope to keep abreast of issues facing the legal community and to show support for the organization through attendance at any events where I did not believe there might exist a conflict with my duties and responsibilities on the bench. If permitted, I would hope to continue my volunteer involvement as a mentor with "Attorneys and Kids" and I would hope to continue to support and participate in the Lawyers 5k Run fundraiser.**

19. Are there any other matters, not covered in these questions, which you consider relevant to members of the Erie County Bar Association and to voters evaluating your fitness for the judiciary? If so, describe.

**There are two relevant beliefs I would like to share:**

**First, I believe that the position of judge is one of service, not entitlement. That service is to the people of Erie County, as well as to those with a vested interest in any case before that judge. He or she must be diligent, attentive and aware of all that happens in the courtroom to ensure that due process is allowed to take place within the spirit and the letter of the law. That service takes time, dedication and a complete understanding of the judicial process. There is much at stake and the responsibility is significant.**

**Secondly, I would like the members of the Erie County Bar Association to know that I believe a judge should be the same person they were as an attorney. They should not take on a different persona or have different expectations of his/her former colleagues just because he/she has taken the bench. An attorney trying a case before them should be able to count on their demeanor to be that which they have known when that judge was a practicing attorney. Please rest assured that my personality and demeanor will remain the same if elected to take the bench in January.**

John J. (Jamie) Mead  
Printed Name

  
Candidate's signature

2/2/15  
Date