

# Maryland Judicial Equality Committee

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## Position Survey

1. Under what conditions if any, should preferential treatment be shown to one gender in family law cases? Which gender and with what restrictions? Explain:  
None, except that children are best protected by having the influence and nurturing of both parents.
2. What percentage of all domestic violence do you believe is committed by men?  
Circle One 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10%  
Based on (a) news reports, (b) case statistics, (c) prosecutions, (d) research studies, (e) other  
My hunch is that 40% of domestic violence is committed by men.
3. To your knowledge and in your opinion, does the issuance of a protective order result in decreased domestic violence? Explain:  
No. Judicial intervention raises the stakes and raises the likelihood of violence.
4. Do you believe the current Family Law system treats both men and women equally and what would you change if given the opportunity? Explain:  
No. The current system is biased in favor of women. The only way to change that phenomenon, borne of political correctness, is to raise public awareness and response by elected officials.
5. Do you believe that false testimony occurs frequently in contested custody or divorce cases? If so, what can be done to deal with this situation? Explain:  
Yes. The State's Attorneys should prosecute perjury, which at present is rarely done.
6. Currently, judges issuing protective orders via Ex Parte' requests consider only the written statement made in the request and if the accused is capable of carrying out the alleged action. Do you feel that the civil rights of the accused are adequately protected under these conditions? If not, what changes would you recommend? Explain:  
No. At a very minimum, the petitioner in an ex parte application for protective order should have to allege its need, which is not even a requirement under current law.

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7. Are you concerned that the number of domestic violence protective orders fall disproportionately against men and to what do you attribute it? Explain:

Yes. Gender bias against men is all too obvious in our culture and our court system.

8. Would you support legislation to modify the current domestic violence statutes to correct abuses currently occurring in the system? Explain:

See answers to question nos. 5 and 6.

9. Do you believe that given the opportunity, as a single parent, both men and women are equally capable of raising children? Explain:

Yes, and my office in Annapolis has served in past sessions as chief sponsor of legislation imposing a statutory presumption of joint custody, as exists in other states.

10. Would you support legislation to direct judges to require the joint legal physical custody of children unless there are compelling reasons not to do so? Explain:

See answer to question no. 9.

11. What are the compelling reasons for not giving joint legal physical custody of children to both parents who live in the same jurisdiction? Explain:

Compelling justification in support of child welfare.

