

Maryland Judicial Equality Committee

Name: Henry B. Heller

Office Sought: House of Delegates

Date: August 1, 2002

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.

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

I am not familiar with this issue.

3. To your knowledge and in your opinion, does the issuance of a protective order result in decreased domestic violence? Explain:

I am not familiar with this issue.

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:

I am not familiar with this issue.

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, civil lawsuits or penalty of perjury - I am unable
unable to judge the frequency.

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:

I am not familiar with this issue.

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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:

I am not familiar with this issue.

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

I would consider it.

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

Yes.

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:

I would consider it.

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:

I am not familiar with this issue. This is not an issue that the Ways and Means Committee addresses. After the election, I would be glad to meet with your organization for me to gain a better understanding of your issues.