

Maryland Judicial Equality Committee

Name: Joseph F. Vallario, Jr Office Sought: House of Delegates, 27A

Date: 8/12/02

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:

No preferential treatment. A judge should always take into consideration the best interest of the child.

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

90% based on my 40 years as an attorney.

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

Yes.

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:

Equal.

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 - prosecute when perjury proven.

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:

Adequate - a full hearing must be held within 7 days or sooner.

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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:

My experience as an attorney leads me to believe that approximately 90% perpetrated by males.

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

I would support legislation if abuses are confirmed.

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:

Yes.

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:

Not in the best interest of the child.