

Maryland Judicial Equality Committee

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Office Sought: HOUSE OF DELEGATES - 39

Date: JULY 28, 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:

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT SUCH A DECISION SHOULD BE GENDER BASED.

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

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

I THINK IT PROBABLY DOES NOT RESULT IN A DECREASE BECAUSE ANYONE WHO IS OUT TO "GET SOMEONE" WILL PROBABLY DO SO REGARDLESS, HOWEVER IF SUCH AN ORDER PROTECTS ONE PERSON, IT IS WORTH IT.

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 DON'T BELIEVE IT TREATS THEM EQUALLY. I THINK DISCRETION IS GIVEN TO THE MOTHER EVEN WHEN ALL THINGS ARE 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:

I BELIEVE FALSE TESTIMONY DOES OCCUR, BUT IT IS INCUMBENT ON OPPOSING COUNSEL TO REQUEST FALSE STATEMENTS TO THE BEST OF HIS INVESTIGATIVE ABILITY.

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 TRUST THE JUDGES' JUDGMENT IN THIS REGARD BASED ON WHATEVER INFORMATION THEY HAVE. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS PREJUDICE THE JUDGE AGAINST THE ACCUSED.

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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 WOULD ONLY BE CONCERNED IF REQUESTS FOR PROTECTIVE ORDERS BY MEN WERE SHOWN TO BE ~~BE~~ DISPROPORTIONATELY REJECTED.

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

Yes, I WOULD WORK TO CORRECT ANY DOCUMENTED ABUSE.

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

YES. BEYOND GENDER, THEIR EMPLOYMENT STATUS, HOUSING STATUS, INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE THE DECIDING FACTORS.

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:

DOCUMENTED PHYSICAL ABUSE OF THE CHILDREN EVIDENCED BY INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONALS THAT APARENT IS POSING DANGEROUS TO THE CHILD.