

Maryland Judicial Equality Committee

Name: Bill Askinazi

Office Sought: Delegate

Date: July 27, 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:

Genders should be treated equally

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%

80%

90%

80%

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

*YES Heat of passion circumstances leads to physical altercations.
Separation by court order helps reduce tensions*

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:

*Unfortunately some judges are biased to one gender or the other
the process demands immediate hearings, post protective orders*

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:

Perjury laws are to be enforced.

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 believe a hearing on the merits should take place, with testimony,
within 24 hrs. of an ex parte Order, absent exigent circumstances
much like child abuse removal cases.*

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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:

No I am not concerned. Statistically, I believe men are the perpetrators of more domestic violence than women.

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

Yes. Not having the "current abuses" defined, I am hard pressed to explain.

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

Men are as capable as women to raise their child given an equal opportunity.

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:

The "best interest of the child" is a fairly intensive test for custody. I support it on a case by case basis.

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:

One parent may be working disproportionately to the child's school schedule; drug/alcohol abuse; unstable home setting; improper environment conducive to healthy learning + safety etc.