

Maryland Judicial Equality Committee

Name: Bill White

Office Sought: House of Delegates 39

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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:

I would say that the husband should generally be acknowledged as head of the household except in those cases where he has not performed husbandly obligations (has been absent, has deserted, etcetera).

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

Having seen lots of it, it seems about equal to me.

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

No. People just walk on through them.

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. It likely gives preference to women, having been politicized with fifty years of feminism - particularly here in Maryland.

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, I'm sure it's the norm. On the other hand, people have been telling lies for thousands of years - I don't think we can stop it.

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 don't believe this violates civil rights because:

① *It is the same process used in criminal proceedings, and is rooted in 1000 years of common law.*

② *A hearing is held within a short number of days*

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where the defending party can argue against the order

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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 think men, though equally abused, are less likely to bring such complaints, and thus less likely to request orders.

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

If such abuses can be demonstrated. Certainly, I believe that domestic violence should be treated no differently than any other form of assault, and all laws which give special consideration should

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

I don't think either are particularly capable of raising children properly as a single parent, but both are equal in that respect.

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:

No. Divorce ends a family, and the children should be clearly given to one parent or the other.

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:

The end of a family is exactly that - the end. To continue a failed relationship by maintaining ties, like children, between two people too immature to have created a ~~permanent~~ relationship is an irresponsible act by the state. Permanent

If both parents wanted custody they should have considered that before divorcing.