



**Midlands Citizens Committee Report
Circuit Court, 2nd Judicial Circuit, Seat 1
Candidate's Name; Hon. Maurice A. Griffith
2019**

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well Qualified
1. Constitutional Qualifications: A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.		YES	
2. Ethical Fitness: A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.		YES	
3. Professional and Academic Ability: A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.		YES, having served as the Master in Equity since June 2011 he has limited experience in the Court of Common Pleas and Court of General Sessions but good experience in those courts prior to becoming the Master	
4. Character: The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.		YES..prior tax liens was a concern at first but was adequately explained.	
5. Reputation: Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bona work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.		YES	
6. Physical Health: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		YES	
7. Mental Stability: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		YES	
8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.		SEE # 3 ABOVE	
9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.		YES	

Related Comments: The committee was concerned about the 2002 and 2008 tax liens but was satisfied with his explanations and didn't think this past experience would affect his ability to serve as a circuit court judge.

SUMMARY STATEMENT: QUALIFIED

Committee Chair's Name
WILLIAM S TETTERTON

Date
3-11-19

Candidate's Name

Midlands Citizens Committee Report
Circuit Court, 2nd Judicial Circuit, Seat 1
Candidate's Name: David W. Miller

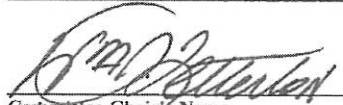
2019

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well Qualified
1. Constitutional Qualifications: A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.		YES	
2. Ethical Fitness: A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			YES
3. Professional and Academic Ability: A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.			YES, Sometimes he can be a little verbose
4. Character: The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			YES, good work ethics and energetic.
5. Reputation: Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bona work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.			YES, will work toward making the judiciary more efficient for all parties involved.
6. Physical Health: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		YES	
7. Mental Stability: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		YES	
8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.			Yes. Very experienced in the criminal area, and experienced somewhat on the civil side but has endeavored to stay current.
9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.			YES

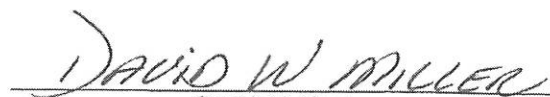
Related Comments:

The committee felt that Mr. Miller was very well qualified to sit as a circuit court judge. He was energetic, eager to stay involved in making the judicial system more efficient, pleasant and exhibited good temperament.

SUMMARY STATEMENT: VERY WELL QUALIFIED


 Committee Chair's Name
 WILLIAM S. TETTERTON

Date 3-12-19


 Candidate's Name

Midlands Citizens Committee Report
Circuit Court, 2nd Judicial Circuit, Seat 1
Candidate's Name: Courtney C. Pope

2019

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well Qualified
1. Constitutional Qualifications: A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.		YES	
2. Ethical Fitness: A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			YES
3. Professional and Academic Ability: A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.	Unqualified at this time because of her lack of experience in the Circuit Courts. Very little trial experience except in a court of limited jurisdiction.		
4. Character: The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			YES, committee very impressed with her demeanor and eagerness to learn
5. Reputation: Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bona work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.			YES
6. Physical Health: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		YES	
7. Mental Stability: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		YES	
8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.	Lack of trial experience or other experience in the CP or GS courts. She admitted her lack of experience and realized it as an impediment at this time to being a circuit court judge. She has great potential in the future and would be an asset to the judiciary once she gains more experience		
9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.			YES, The committee was very impressed with her presentation and would expect to see more of her in the future.

Related Comments: Unfortunately the committee had to find her unqualified primarily because of lack of experience and not being well versed in procedural and evidentiary issues. She made a very impressive presentation and appearance. One comment of a committee member was that she would have to have "on the job training". She admitted that while serving on the bench she would often have to consult with other sitting judges for advice. With more experience in the future the committee felt she would be well qualified to be a circuit court judge.

SUMMARY STATEMENT: UNQUALIFIED

H. M. Stetson
Committee Chair's Name

WILLIAM STETSON

Date 3-11-19 Courtney C. Pope
Candidate's Name