

Name Pang Ly

E-mail Address pvly@yahoo.com

Are you a registered member of the Democratic Party? Yes

Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform? Yes

Will you fight for its implementation in policies?

Yes to the extent it is permitted by the CA Code of Judicial Ethics to maintain the judiciary's independence, impartiality, and integrity.

What office and which seat are you running for?

San Francisco Cty. Sup. Ct., Seat 1.

What other elected positions have you held previously?

None.

PART I: GENERAL QUESTIONS (200 words or less)

- 1) Are you a registered member of the Democratic Party?
Yes.
- 2) Please describe your contributions to the Democratic Party and/or increasing civic engagement in the democratic process at the local, state and or/national level in recent years.

As a (1) Commissioner, (2) applicant for judicial appointment, and (3) candidate for judicial office, I am bound by the CA Code of Judicial Ethics to refrain from partisan advocacy to maintain the judiciary's independence, impartiality, and integrity.

- 3) Are there any other civic causes or organizations that you are involved with currently?
Please describe.

Queen's Bench: A legal group that fosters professional and social relationships among women lawyers and to promote equality and opportunity for all women through education, programs, and community outreach.

Girls on the Run: Growing up in poverty with overworked immigrant parents and trying to cope with being a girl, running gave me a sense of agency. GOTR's mission helps girls create confidence with special emphasis on the connection between physical and emotional health.

Edgewood Center for Children and Families: I grew up in a chaotic, violent, and abusive family and know the trauma that it can inflict on the child and family. Edgewood gives much needed services and hope to helps thousands of abused, neglected, and traumatized children in the Bay Area.

Doctors Without Borders: My family and I were detained at a refugee camp for almost a year and while conditions were minimal, we did receive some medical attention. Health has no geography border and DWB's mission provides medical aide independently, neutrally and impartially.

- 4) Please list any organizations or elected officials who have endorsed you.

California Treasurer Fiona Ma

Assemblymember David Chiu

San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Carmen Chu

Bill Hing, Professor of Law

Dale Minami, Civil Rights Attorney

Dr. Amos C. Brown, Third Baptist Church

Sun-Reporter Newspaper

John Keker, Founding Partner of Keker Van Nest & Peters

24 SFCSC Judges and 4 retired judges

Begert

Bolanos-first Latina Judge

Bradstreet

Busch

Chan, B.

Cheng

Darwin

Dekreon

Jackson-first African American female Presiding Judge

Kahn

Karnow

Kelly

Kiesselbach

Lam

Lee-first Asian American female Presiding Judge

Massullo

Moody

Robertson

Ross

Schulman

Stewart

Ulmer

Wiley

Wiss

(Ret.) Sing

(Ret.) Tang

(Ret.) O'Malley-Taylor

(Ret.) Quidachay

PART II: SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS (250 Words or less)

1) What do you perceive as the strengths of the Superior Court? What are the current weaknesses and how would you like to see the judicial system improved?

SFCSC judges are independent, intelligent and committed jurists serving our community. The court is well respected locally, state wide and nationwide for its incredible talent and innovations to ensure fair and just outcomes to all people who use the court.

Although the court continues to lead in efforts to improve diversity, inclusion and foster belonging reflective of SF, there are still more candidates that can help further improve the 52 jurists' collective ability. I am a non-traditional candidate for judge as my background includes no political experience, only public school educations, and I am a woman of color. Nonetheless I boldly seek office because as a war refugee, who grew up in poverty, experienced racial/gender/economic injustices, and who has survived hunger/violence/abuse/shame I cannot remain silent and will amplify my voice to ensure that justice truly is for all.

2) Please summarize your qualifications and experience for the office you are seeking. Have you ever had any experience with management?

In addition to my personal background, prior volunteering at the Asian Law Caucus and various community engagements advancing racial/gender/economic/environmental justice, I am a licensed and practicing lawyer with 21 years of experience which includes both criminal and civil matters. The past ten years I have worked at SFCSC and currently am a Superior Court Commissioner. Primarily my focus is on civil matters such as Asbestos, CEQA, Complex Litigation, Probate, Unlawful Detainer, and general civil actions. However I also serve as a Judge Pro Tem and preside over Traffic Court's arraignments, SFMTA appeals and trials.

The eclectic scope has enhanced my ability to assist litigants from all walks of life, whether wealthy or poor, angry, hurt, scared or frustrated as well as those with physical and mental limitations. These numerous interactions further refine my discipline to maintain a respectful and appropriate judicial temperament. The combination of legal knowledge and vast experiences at the court has enabled me to successfully mediate over 2,000 cases. These adaptable skills and deep understanding of the community prepares me to adjudicate cases in the courtroom whether criminal, civil, family or juvenile.

In addition, I serve on the court's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Collaborative Court's committee. These are the most forward expressions of the court's adjudicative mandate to ensure justice. I am also spearheading efforts to explore how the court along with Dept. of Public Health and community organizations can grapple with the public health crisis. I am a hard worker, fair, constantly open to learning and am tirelessly committed to public service.

3) Have you ever had to support a legal position that was contrary to your personal moral beliefs? Please describe.

Fortunately no.

4) What do you perceive are the primary causes of the high rates of incarceration among communities of color? Do you believe the Court has a role to play in criminal justice reform?

I am mindful that the growing income inequality further exacerbates housing anxiety, job insecurities and health instability particularly among communities of color. Studies show that the increasing income gap correlates with increased crimes.

SFCSC is ahead of many jurisdictions with its diversion efforts via collaborative courts (i.e. Veteran's, Drug, Youth Court, Behavioral Health, Probation). However the justice system can benefit from other taken well in advance of entering its court system: 1) an unflinching examination of the laws and 2) promoting unbiased enforcement of the laws.

.

5) What is your perspective on the current bail schedule? How did you arrive at that understanding? How can the system be reformed?

As a (1) Commissioner, (2) applicant for judicial appointment, and (3) candidate for judicial office, I am bound by the CA Code of Judicial Ethics and refrain from making statements about the issue to maintain the judiciary's independence, impartiality, and integrity. This is also because SB10 ending the cash bail system is up for referendum on the 11.3.20 election. However I reiterate my values of fairness and equality to all.

However I do want to share that when I intervened to protect my mother from my brother and his non-Asian girlfriend in a domestic dispute, only the Asians were taken in to custody. I was processed and held in a cell. No charge resulted but I know the embarrassment, shame, and humiliation of such an experience.

6) San Francisco is facing a car break-in epidemic that is perceived to be organized by crime networks. What do you believe are the factors leading to this problem? What is the court's role in preventing offenders returning to crime?

Please see response to Q4. As judge I adjudicate the case before me and may utilize collaborative court along with other available resources in the community. However I can only apply the laws that are in existence. To help prevent repeat offenders:1) give me fairer laws I can apply and 2) give me resources for alternative rehabilitation/stabilization.

7) How does your background and experience prepare you for legal cases pertaining to the rights of women, people of color, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ?

Please see response to Q2. Additionally I am an active member of my neighborhood, which is racial mixed with a significant population of seniors, low income, long term tenants, and LGBTQ residents in the high transit congestion area. Knowing and caring about my neighbors anchors and strengthens me to do good for all people.

8) Do you believe there should be implicit bias training for judges? Why or why not?

CA Code of Judicial Ethics already requires such compliance.

9) Does the court have a role in determining the outcomes of those with mental illness or the homeless who are caught up in our criminal justice system? If so, what is that role?

A judge must adjudicate the case before her and apply the existing law.

10) Should the court ensure a fair hearing in the case of pro per or unrepresented litigants in family court or housing court? If yes, how can the court improve the process to ensure fairness in these types of proceedings?

A judge should perform her duties to promote procedural justice and fairness. A SRL should be provided an explanation of process without overstepping to offering legal advice. A judge should also use best practices that include: plain language, treating SRL and represented party with respect, adapt trial schedule for certified court interpreters availability, and be always be cognizant of her potential bias.

11) What do you perceive are the biggest obstacles the court faces in civil litigation? How can this be improved to best serve the general public?

Not obstacles but I am concern about that the court's budget being appropriate to ensure fair and just outcomes to all people who use the court.