

NAME: Kelley Adley

COURT: Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4

1. What current or past judge do you most want to inspire your approach to judicial excellence, and why?

County Court Judge John Barry is the judge that I would most inspire my approach to judicial excellence. Judge Barry is a man of integrity and respect and expects the same from his court staff and attorneys that practice in his court. Judge Barry has maintained a long and respected career working for the citizens of Collin County. He maintains a strict and consistent courtroom beginning courtroom business at 8:30 am and completing his day when the work is complete. Judge Barry separates his personal life from his judicial responsibilities. He lives faithfully in his Church and has strong family values. Judge Barry studies the law and how it affects his decisions with criminal and civil cases and lives his life with a strong faith and loyalty to his family.

2. What has been the greatest accomplishment in your legal career? In your personal life?

There are approximately 850 JP courts in the State of Texas and less than 7% of the JP Judges are trained as lawyers. I am not a lawyer but an experienced peace officer with 20 years of law enforcement experience and an MBA. My greatest accomplishment in my legal career as a peace officer with the State of Texas was working as a criminal investigator with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. I was responsible for investigating and supporting the Assistant District Attorney in the capital murder and conviction of the "Texas 7". Irving Officer Aubrey Hawkins was a friend and loyal police officer. Officer Hawkins was killed on Christmas Eve investigating a silent alarm at a sporting goods store. Six of the seven suspects responsible for the murder of Officer Hawkins are currently on Texas Death Row. The other suspect in the murder took his own life in Colorado.

My greatest accomplishment in my personal life is my marriage to my wife and my 9 month old little boy. They are my greatest accomplishments and I love them dearly.

3. What, if anything, would you change to improve the procedures and efficiency of the court you are seeking?

My campaign platform has been focused and will continue to focus on the growing issue of truancy in Collin County. The current judge of the Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4 has a long history of neglecting truancy cases. Over a 10 year period under his leadership, JP 4 has heard fewer than 50 cases out of more than 14,000 filed in Collin County. Last year JP 4 heard only 3 truancy cases. My pledge is to conduct the business of the court completely and efficiently. I will maximize the court's time in session and I will conduct myself at all times in a manner that reflects positively on the court. Truancy cases will be heard at JP 4 with specific time allotments dedicated to truancy cases during the business day. Teen court ties directly into truancy, such that it reinforces the importance of curtailing delinquency. Peer judgment is highly effective with adolescents. I will devote my time to Teen court after the normal County work hours. Currently, there is an unacceptable civil docket backlog that I will address

immediately. The acceptable timeframe for hearing civil cases is 5 to 6 months from the date of filing, not the current 10 to 11 months. It is the responsibility of the court to hear the civil docket in a timely manner. I want to be held accountable to the matters of the court, to restore truancy and have a manageable working docket for the people.

4. Do you feel that ALL citizens have equal and adequate access to justice in our county? How would you improve that access?

I do believe that all citizens have equal and adequate access to justice. As I stated in the previous question; I intend to improve that access on the Justice of the Peace level by maximizing the court's time in session and to make firm and fair decisions on all cases brought before the court. Citizens deserve to have their cases heard by an impartial judge who enforces the rules of the court fairly and equally.

5. Collin County tracks indigent defense dollars ordered by each judge. What effect would that reporting have on your decisions to order that the county pay for a defendant's defense?

At this time all indigent defendants must qualify by Collin County standards to have an attorney assigned to their particular case. The Sixth Amendment to the Bill of Rights in the Constitution allows all defendants to have the assistance of counsel for their defense. The Miranda Rights also clearly state in a succinct statement of the rights to counsel for indigent defendant. A judicial judge must properly manage the defense dollars not to exceed certain limits set by Collin County. This would not affect my decision to appoint defense counsel to an indigent defendant.

6. What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice in Collin County?

Judges are charged with upholding the law as written, not to make laws. Judges interpret the law on a case by case basis with impartiality. Any perceived obstacles to justice are reserved for lawmakers and their constituents to make changes.

7. Incarceration is the most expensive criminal sanction available. How would that fact affect your sentencing decisions?

As a Justice of the Peace judicial judge the jurisdiction of the court and primary judgment is to fine persons guilty of an offense. Incarceration is reserved for fines that move into a Capias Warrant; then the person could be incarcerated on that warrant only. Therefore, due to the nature of the court, I do not foresee incarceration affecting the sentences passed down, if I am elected.

8. Without commenting on a specific case or type of cases, should Collin County explore more or different types of alternative sentencing? What do you think works? What would you like to try?

As I stated earlier; truancy is a growing issue in Collin County. I plan to open the docket at JP 4 to hear additional truancy cases and I am in the process of exploring alternative types of sentencing directed to juveniles and their families. Every child is different, thus there is not a one size fits all program. There are numerous counseling programs for

teens and parents. These programs should be handled with the partnership of the local Independent School Districts and the input from the parents to learn the unique circumstances for the individual child and the need of the proven program and methods of intervention. Ongoing evaluation is also needed to insure parent responsible for that child. I intend to join forces with local Justice of the Peace judges and place students in a proven program and method of intervention. Ongoing evaluation is also needed to insure effectiveness.

9. Recently a Dallas judge make the news when he replaced a white juror with a minority one in a capital trial where the jury was all white and the defendant was not. Do you believe it is important for a minority defendant to have a jury that contains minority members?

There are only six jurors for Class C misdemeanor cases within the Justice of the Peace courts. Prosecutors for the State of Texas and the defendant are allowed by law to choose the six jurors for the disputed traffic case. This election process is called Voir Dir and was created to be a fair choosing from the State and the defendant of the six jurors. The defendant has every opportunity to strike the jurors he believes to be biased or unfair and likewise pick a minority juror that he so chooses. The judge is charged with verifying fairness and equality in the process.

10. When a judge's sense of justice appears to be at variance to the strict application of the law, what approach should an ethical judge take to resolve the conflict?

The district and county level courts each have administrative judges that help mediate issues of this nature. I would first seek the input of another trusted Justice of the Peace. If unsuccessful, then I might seek the administrative judge or another judge at the district or county level for help with the issue.

11. Do you believe that our system or partisan election of trial judges should be continued? How can it be improved?

I support our system of partisan election within our County and State. However, partisanship stops at the courtroom door. Judges are to be fair and unbiased, not allowing any personal beliefs to intrude into the verdict or judgment. Allowing the voters to select judges provides for a check and balance against ineffective judges.

12. Tell the voters one thing about yourself that isn't on any website, nor discussed at any forum?

I enjoy all competitive team sports. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and I love to travel.