

North Carolina Free Enterprise Foundation  
2010 Questionnaire  
Candidates for North Carolina Appellate Courts

Please complete and return  
by March 19 Deadline

SECTION I. Candidate Personal Profile Information

Name: Leto Copeley Party (optional): Democrat Republican Other: non partisan race  
Office Sought (circle): N.C. Supreme Court N.C. Court of Appeals, seat: Elmore  
Address: P.O. Box 1061 City: Hillsborough State: NC Zip: 27278  
County of Residence: Orange Length of Residence in County: 6 yrs.  
Home Phone: ~~919 643 2276~~ Work Phone: 919-942-5200 Mobile Phone: 919 606. 8767  
Email: lcopeley@gmail.com Fax: 919 643-2925  
Gender: F Race/Ethnicity: N/A Religion: Episcopalian  
Place of Birth (city/state): New York / NY Date of Birth: 6/27/54  
Marital Status (circle): Married Single Divorced Separated Number of Children: 0  
Occupation: Attorney Employer: Patterson Harkavy LLP  
Military Service: ∅ High School: Newton High School, Newton NJ  
Colleges/Universities Attended: Hunter College, BA  
Law Degree Received From: Harvard Law School  
Previous Elected/Appointed Offices: ∅

SECTION II. Candidate Campaign Information

Name of Campaign Committee: Leto for Judge  
Campaign Email: lcto@lcto for judge.com Campaign Website: www.lcto for judge.com  
Campaign Phone: ~~919~~ 828. 442- 9252 Campaign Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Campaign Address: P.O. Box 1061 City: Hillsborough State: NC Zip: 27278  
Campaign Treasurer: John J. Butler Campaign Treasurer Phone: 919-890-4144  
Political Consultants: none ; campaign manager - Ellen Pfirrmann

Note: Judges must be careful of personal info (phone, address) Sorry!



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Do you plan to participate in North Carolina public financing program?

Yes    No    Undecided

Considering your personal and professional associations, how likely are you to receive support from each of the following groups?

	Very Likely	Likely	Unknown	Unlikely	Very Unlikely
A. North Carolina Advocates for Justice (formerly the Academy of Trial Lawyers)	<u>1</u>	2	3	4	5
B. Medical Groups (ex. Doctors, Hospital Administrators)	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
C. Banking & Finance Industry	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
D. Utility/Telecommunications Companies	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
E. Real Estate & Construction Industry	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
F. Labor Unions	<u>1</u>	2	3	4	5
G. Retail/Wholesale Businesses	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
H. State Employees Association of N.C. (SEANC)	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
I. Insurance Industry	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
J. N.C. Association of Educators (NCAE)	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
K. Business Professionals (ex. Architects, Accountants, Engineers)	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
L. Transportation Industry	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
M. Agri-business Interests	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5
N. Legislative Leadership Committees	1	2	<del>3</del>	4	<u>5</u>

Are there other groups not listed that you would expect to receive a campaign contribution or endorsement from? (Ex. Lillian's List, Anti-Tax Groups)

No

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**SECTION III. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS & STATEMENTS**

**Instructions:** Please respond to the following questions and statements by circling the response that best represents your position or opinion. You are invited to provide additional comments or explanations for your answers on a separate page. Please be sure to identify which question you are commenting on by noting the appropriate question number with your additional comments.

*Please see attached sheets.*

1. Of the justices currently serving on the United States Supreme Court, whose judicial philosophy most closely reflects your own? (Circle one response)  
Alito    Breyer    Ginsburg    Kennedy    Roberts    Scalia    Sotomayor    Stevens    Thomas
  
2. Do you believe the words and meaning of the Constitution should be interpreted in the context of our present culture or as closely to the intent of the original authors as possible?  
Present Culture    Original Authors    Undecided
  
3. Do you believe judges in North Carolina should be appointed by the Governor instead of elected by the people?  
Yes                      No                      Undecided
  
4. Have you owned or managed a business? (If so, please describe below.)  
Yes                      No  

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5. For every \$100.00 of sales, about how much profit do you believe the average North Carolina business nets? (Circle one response)  
Under \$1              \$1-5                      \$5-10                      \$10-25                      \$25-50                      Over \$50
  
6. Do you believe the current level of taxes paid by North Carolina businesses is too high, too low, or about right? (Circle one response)  
Too high              Too low                      About right



Leto Copeley  
Candidate Questionnaire Responses  
North Carolina FreeEnterprise Foundation

### SECTION III

1. First, I have not examined the philosophies of the individual Supreme Court justices enough to be able to answer this question. Second, and more importantly, I believe that my personal philosophy is wholly irrelevant to this campaign. If elected, I will swear an oath to listen to each side with an open mind, and I promise to uphold that oath. I do not have a personal or political agenda in seeking this seat, nor do I think it appropriate that any judicial candidate have such an agenda.

2. It is well established in American law that words should be given their ordinary meaning. The United States Supreme Court has held this, so it is established judicial precedent, which, if elected, I would be bound to follow. To look up the meaning of a legal term, I have been trained to turn to Black's Law Dictionary. In interpreting the meaning of the Constitution, judges on the Court of Appeals are first constrained to follow precedent as set by the NC Supreme Court and the US Supreme Court. To answer in any further depth is impossible given that I have not yet been elected and I am not deciding a particular case. To answer one way or another would be to set out an ideological agenda, which I believe is inappropriate for a judge and unfair to parties potentially appearing before the Court.

3. The North Carolina Constitution provides for the election of judges. Whether the Constitution should be amended would be up to the legislature, subject to the approval of the voters.

4. Yes. I have owned my own law firm or have been a partner in a small private practice for most of the 27 years since I left law school. I know what it is like to make tough decisions about hiring and firing, spending and conserving resources, and marketing, all in light of competitive pressures. When I was struggling during my college years (totally self supporting), I cleaned houses for people and baked desserts and sold them to the owners of the restaurant where I worked as a waitress. I suppose these were businesses, although they didn't produce any profit.

5. I am sure the profit margin of each individual business is what is important to that business owner. The percentage must depend on the nature of the enterprise. I understand that small farmers and many retail sales businesses have very low profitability, whereas other businesses may have a much higher profitability margin.

6. My opinion about taxes is wholly irrelevant to the job of judge on the Court of Appeals. The setting of taxes is up to the legislature and not the courts. If a tax question were to come before me as a judge, I would hear all sides and apply the law fairly. Tax questions rarely come before the Court of Appeals.

#### SECTION IV

My judicial philosophy is that a judge should leave politics out of the courtroom and should study the facts, apply the law, and write opinions that the litigants can follow and understand. Each party who comes before the Court has the right to have his or her case decided by a judge with an open mind, and without a personal agenda. In applying the law, judges on the Court of Appeals are bound to follow existing precedent. I believe in this requirement, and in the exercise of judicial restraint.

In my travels around the state, numerous business lawyers have told me that what best helps them serve the business community is to have judges who will understand the case, no matter how complex, and who will spell out the law clearly. I am committed to being that kind of judge. The law should be predictable, easily understood, and consistently applied. That way businesses owners can focus on what they do best, which is to run their businesses.

I have a record of working hard for my individual clients, while maintaining an even temperament and helping them not to burn their bridges behind them. I believe this is why I have the honor of having received endorsements and financial support from lawyers representing the business community, including former opposing counsel, and from former trial and appellate judges, including a member of the board of this organization.

Thank you for asking me to complete this questionnaire. I ask for your vote.