

# Dutchess County Bar Association

## Judicial Screening Questionnaire

1. Full Name: Amy Suzanne Puerto
2. Identify the Court for which you are a candidate and state whether you are a candidate for election or appointment:  
NYS Supreme Court - 9th Judicial District
3. List the political party or parties which are supporting your candidacy, or of which you are seeking nomination:  
Democratic Party
4. List in reverse chronological order all employment and periods of unemployment since graduation from law school. Please feel free to continue on an additional page or attach a resume or CV. see attached resume

Name of Employer	Location	Dates of Employment	Job Title

5. Have you ever been issued a license, other than a marriage license, driver's license, license to practice law or license as a notary public? If yes, please describe the license and list the dates of its initial issuance and its last renewal: *No*

6. Has any license, including a license to practice law, a license as a notary public or a driver's license, ever been revoked or suspended? If yes, please describe the circumstances: *No*

7. College and professional schools (other than law schools) attended:

School	Major/Course of Study	Dates Attended	Date of Graduation
SUNY Geneseo	B.S. Sociology	9/93 - 5/97	May 1997
Universidad de Salamanca	Study Abroad	8/96 - 12/96	

8. Law Schools Attended:

School	Location	Dates Attended	Date of Graduation
Brooklyn Law School	Brooklyn, N.Y.	8/97 - 5/00	May, 2000

9. List all courts in which you are admitted or have ever been admitted to practice, along with the date of admission for each:

*N.Y.S. - Appellate Div, 2nd Dept. May 23, 2001*

*N.J. - May 2021; I resigned from the bar in N.J. because I could not practice there and could not afford to maintain m.l. license.*

10. List all areas of law in which you have concentrated or have had substantial experience for any sustained period of time:

*Criminal, Family, Matrimonial, Surrogates*

11. FOR ATTORNEYS: Have you complied with all registration requirements for lawyers, including Continuing Legal Education, in the state of New York and any other jurisdiction in which you are licensed to practice law? If no, please describe the circumstances: *yes*

12. FOR JUDGES: Have you attended the mandatory Judicial Ethics Training courses offered at the Judicial Institute? If no, please provide the dates of any such courses for which you are registered to attend:

13. List any bar associations or professional organizations that you are a member of. If you have served in a leadership capacity for the organization, please also include the position you held: *see attached resume*

14. List any community service activities you participate in:

*see attached resume*

15. Have you written any articles for publication? If yes, please give the name and date of the publication and title of each article: *NO*

16. Have you had any teaching experience, including serving as a presenter for Continuing Legal Education programs, in law or related fields? If yes, please list: *YES.*

*I have been a panelist and moderator for several CLE's relating to the Raise the Age Legislation. Additionally, while an Assistant District Attorney, Attorney and Police officers regarding the investigation and prosecution of Domestic Violence matters, Domestic Violence Legislation, and the dynamics of Domestic Violence.*

17. Have your qualifications for public office previously been reviewed by any bar or other professional association? If yes, please list the organization, date of review and findings of the organization: *No*

18. FOR ATTORNEYS: Attach a list of five cases in which you have actively and substantially participated in that you feel best represent the scope of your work. Please include the title of the case, the index or docket number, the court in which the case was heard and a brief description of the case. *See attached*

19. FOR JUDGES: Attach a list of five opinions, trials or appeals that you feel best represent the scope of your judicial experience. Please include the citation for each (if published) or a brief description of the nature of the case (if not published). *See attached*

20. FOR ALL CANDIDATES: Please include any additional information which is reasonable to expect our membership would want to know when considering your qualifications for the office you seek.

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I acknowledge by my signature that the answers I have given are true and complete and recognize my continuing obligation during the evaluation process to correct and supplement my answers in order to ensure that they remain true and complete.

*Amey B. Park*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

*9/15/22*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

AMY S. PUERTO  
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## EXPERIENCE

- 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of the Unified Court System, White Plains, New York 2016-present  
*Principal Court Attorney to the Honorable Helen M. Blackwood, W.C.C.J., A.J.S.C., A.F.C.J., A.S.C.J.*
- Research all legal issues relevant to pending trials, motions, and applications in civil cases involving foreclosures, motor vehicle accidents, medical malpractice, breach of contract, Labor Law violations, Article 78 petitions against municipalities, matrimonial matters, and a variety of criminal cases
  - Draft decisions to all civil motions and petitions assigned to the court, including summary judgment motions, petitions for change of venue, motions for default judgment, motions to sever and motions to consolidate
  - Draft decisions to all criminal motions assigned to the court, including suppression motions, motions for post-conviction relief, and motions made pursuant to the newly enacted Raise the Age Legislation
  - Assist and support the court in making evidentiary and legal determinations during civil and criminal trials, hearings, and other matters pending before the court
  - Review grand jury minutes in criminal cases for sufficiency of evidence and instructions to the grand jurors.
  - Prepare verdict sheet and juror instructions in civil and criminal trials
  - Assist the court in implementing the Youth Part in Westchester County pursuant to the recently enacted Raise the Age Legislation

- Westchester County District Attorney's Office, White Plains, New York 2000-2015  
*Deputy Chief, Domestic Violence Bureau* 2007-2015
- Supervised and managed several attorneys in their daily responsibilities and in conducting all phases of litigation of criminal domestic violence cases
  - Oversaw six domestic violence aides who support attorneys in organizing cases, contacting victims and enhancing cases through obtaining evidence such as photographs, 911 telephone calls, and medical records
  - Responsible for the reorganization of the Mount Vernon Branch of the District Attorney's Office in its handling of domestic violence cases resulting in a decrease in the dismissal rate of cases by 12%
  - Litigated misdemeanor and felony cases involving domestic violence and child abuse from initial report to trial and verdict
  - Regularly appeared in the Integrated Domestic Violence Court, supervised attorneys appearing in that court and collaborated with IDVC court staff in coordinating calendar appearances
  - Assisted other supervisors in the Special Prosecutions Division to review domestic violence and child abuse cases to assess appropriate charges and ultimate dispositions
  - Supervised all high school, college, and law school interns and externs, evaluated their performance and educated them regarding the criminal justice system and the day-to-day operations and responsibilities of an assistant district attorney
  - Calculated and presented statistics regarding the conviction rates of domestic violence cases throughout Westchester County and for each jurisdiction within the county
  - Collaborated with social service organizations throughout Westchester County and New York State to provide services to victims of domestic violence and their family members
  - Interviewed children in child abuse cases as a certified forensic interviewer during the course of criminal investigations and prosecutions
  - Assisted local law enforcement agencies in the investigation of domestic violence and child abuse cases by preparing search warrants, interviewing witnesses, and analyzing evidence
  - Trained police officers and attorneys in law enforcement agencies throughout Westchester County regarding the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases, domestic violence legislation and the dynamics of domestic violence

- Interviewed and counseled victims of domestic violence and their family members throughout the investigation and prosecution of a case
- Represented the District Attorney's Office and spoke at events throughout the county highlighting issues such as domestic violence and child abuse
- Reviewed and prepared I918-B forms confirming a victim's or witness' cooperation in a domestic violence investigation and/or prosecution for the purposes of obtaining a temporary legal status in the United States.
- Prepared Violence Against Women Act STOP grant reports both quarterly and annually.

*Assistant District Attorney, Superior Court Trial Division*

2003-2007

- Prosecuted and tried a variety of felony cases including drug offenses, burglaries, assaults, and homicides
- Assisted local law enforcement agencies in investigating major cases by preparing search warrants, interviewing witnesses, and analyzing evidence

*Assistant District Attorney, Local Courts and Grand Jury Division*

2001-2003

- Appeared in local village, justice, town, and city courts throughout Westchester County and prosecuted misdemeanor cases, including assault, larceny, and driving while intoxicated.

*Assistant District Attorney, Appeals and Special Litigation Division*

2000-2001

- Researched complex legal issues and drafted motions in felony criminal cases

**EDUCATION**

Brooklyn Law School, J.D., May 2000

*Honors:* Moot Court Honor Society, President

Pace Law School Environmental Moot Court Competition, Semi-Finalist

National Law School Barrister's Award

State University of New York at Geneseo, B.S. Sociology,

Minors: Women's Studies and Legal Studies, May 1997

*Honor:* Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society

La Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, Study Abroad, August-December, 1996

**Professional Organizations**

Westchester Women's Bar Association, Criminal Law and Programs Committees, Co-Chair

Louis D. Brandeis Law Society

Columbian Lawyers' Association

**Community Organizations**

Town of Yorktown Democratic Committee, Member and District Leader, 2016-2017

Town of Somers Democratic Committee, Member, Vice Chair of Town Affairs and District Leader, 2017-2020

Brookside Elementary School PTA, President, 2016-2017

Somers School District Safety and Security Task Force, 2019 – present

Somers Tuskers Arts Rising Stars, Secretary, 2020 – present

Case Name	Index/Docket Number	Court	Citation/Description
People v. Miriam Humbach*	Indictment Number 12-0686	Westchester County Court	This was a domestic violence case in which the wife/mother was charged with repeated violations of an order of protection after attempting to abduct her infant son.
People v. Emily Dearden*	Indictment Number 14-4566	Westchester County Court	This was a domestic violence case in which the wife shot her husband in the head while he was sleeping. He survived but believed he had been shot by an intruder. A lengthy investigation by the Yonkers Police Department and the Westchester County DA's Office ultimately led to the wife's arrest and conviction.
People v. Eziifa Anaka*	Indictment Number 14-0994	Westchester County Court	This was a domestic violence case in which an ex-boyfriend hunted down and shot his ex-girlfriend and her new boyfriend in their home.
Dorfman v. Dorfman**	Index Number 50789/2019	New York State Supreme Court	This is a matrimonial matter involving issues of equitable distribution and custody. Forensic evaluations of the two parents, as well as a special-needs child, were completed.
Kostulas v. Kostulas**	Index Number 51227/2018	New York State Supreme Court	This is a matrimonial matter involving issues of equitable distribution in a long-term marriage. The husband represented himself pro se. After

			the trial ended, a contempt motion was filed, and resolved, for the husband's non-payment of spousal and child support.
Colon v. Colon **	57696/2019	New York State Supreme Court	This is a matrimonial matter involving issues of equitable distribution in a long-term marriage.
Haddad v. Sassoon**	2360/2018	New York State Supreme Court	This is a matrimonial matter involving issues of equitable distribution and custody. Forensic evaluations of the parents and one of the children were completed. Both parties acted pro se.
People v. R.M.**	70005/2018	Westchester County Court	63 Misc.3d 541
People v. G.C.**	70050/2019	Westchester County Court	67 Misc.3d 548
People v. J.B.**	70019/2018	Westchester County Court	63 Misc.3d 424

\*These are matters that I handled towards the end of my tenure in the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

\*\* These are matters that were presided over by Hon. Helen Blackwood during the time that I have been her Principal Court Attorney. I actively and substantially participated in each of these matters and drafted the last three published opinions.