

Candidates for Kent Town Justice

In Kent, there are five candidates for Town Justice. All of them are competing in both the Independence and the Working Families primaries. Voters in each primary may vote for two.



Maureen Fleming

AGE: 53
FAMILY INFO: Married 22 years on October 3 to James F. Mulvena, mother of 3 wonderful children James E. Mulvena, Thomas W. Mulvena and Claire E. Mulvena.
PARTY AFFILIATION: Running in the Democratic, Independence and Working Families primaries. Have been endorsed by the Democratic Party (County and Town) and the Working Families Party. Have also been endorsed by the Westchester-Putnam AFL-CIO Central Labor Body.
EDUCATION: Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Biology and a Minor in Philosophy from New York University, Juris Doctor Degree from Antioch University in Washington, D.C. Teaching Certifications from New York State - one in Biology (grades 7 through 12) and the other in Elementary Education (Grades 1 through 6)
CAREER: After law school, I worked for the New York City Department of Sanitation Inspector General's Office, first as an investigator and then as an Associate Attorney. I administratively prosecuted cases and served as the Sexual Harassment Officer. I briefly worked for the New York City Department of Health as the Deputy Department Advocate. I left the Department of Health for the New York City Department of Correction where I had the opportunity to initiate a unit which conferenced employee disciplinary cases in an attempt to settle such and obviate the need for administrative trials. Our success rate was quite high. I was promoted from that position to be the Director of the Adjudication Unit. In that capacity I oversaw the entire New York City inmate disciplinary system, reviewed hearing officer decisions, drafted policy and procedure for the Department, appeared on behalf of the Department in Bronx Supreme Court, liaisoned with the Board of Correction, Office of Compliance Consultants and the Legal Aid Society. I am currently in private practice. My practice primarily involves court appointed cases in family court, criminal court defense work at the local and county levels. I also handle civil matters such as real estate closings, wills and estates, contracts, landlord/tenant matters and employment issues. I serve as counsel, on a largely pro bono basis, to the New Tabernacle Baptist Church, Bronx, New York in matters including but not limited to property acquisition, real estate and civil issues. I developed an educational program for the international organization of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement regarding Sexual Abuse and implemented the program as the course instructor throughout the United States and in Europe.

Why are you seeking this position?
 I am seeking this position because I think that I can make very positive changes in the way the court functions and make it more efficient than it currently is. I will streamline the conferencing process so that defendants, attorneys and court personnel do not spend hours waiting for the calendar to be called and cases are resolved more quickly. I will work to diminish the backlog of cases, will treat all parties with courtesy and respect and be a fair and impartial Town Justice.

Which jurists, living or deceased, do you admire?
 Supreme Court Justice William Joseph Brennan, Jr., Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, and Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren

Why did you enter the field of law?
 I entered the field of law to make a difference. In law school I worked for the National Labor Relations Board, where my recommendations affected federal labor law. After graduating, I worked for New York City and was instrumental in redefining policy and procedure in the Department of Correction when the inmate population and number of jails were at their peak. Currently, I represent clients who cannot afford an attorney in family and criminal court. While my current impact is not on a large scale, I

hope what I do for my clients makes a positive difference in their lives.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Kent, and to what extent are you pessimistic? Describe each.

I am an optimistic person - the glass is always half full. I believe that the voters of Kent will act to ensure that the future of Kent will be bright. I do hope that I am an active part of that future and will have the privilege of serving the people of this town as a Kent Town Justice.



Hon. Joseph Esposito (Incumbent)

AGE: 53
FAMILY INFO: Wife Carol, our children Debra-Ann & Gregg Burghardt, Jodi Lynne & Bill Panny, Joseph & Cathleen Esposito, JR., & our grandchildren are, Carli-Rae, Rachel Lynne & Joseph III. Our children, their husbands & two of our grandchildren are Carmel High School graduates.
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican, Democrat, Independence & Working Families.
EDUCATION: Edison High School, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. Albany Law School for Judges, Albany N.Y., Police Cademy, Iona College, New Rochelle, N.Y. twenty years of continuous education for tenure, and twenty recertifications by the New York State Unified Court System.
CAREER: Senior Judge, Town of Kent, Self-employed Licensed Master Plumbing & Heating Contractor, Police Officer retired, Town of Kent, Volunteer (active) Life Member, for 48 years wswith the KLake Carmel Fire Department, BOCES Advisory Council, Past Chairman of the Putnam County Plumbing Board.

Why are you seeking this position?
 Being in my 20th year tenure as Judge, I have rendered a great service and "Justice for All", that have appeared before me and applied all laws and decisions in a fair and equitable manner, and it would be an honor and privilege to continue in the position as Town Justice!

Which jurist, living or deceased do you admire?
 United States Supreme Court Jurist, Antonin Scalia, appointed to that position in 1986, and regarded as one of

the court's leading intellects, and his opinions are considered among the best written in the Supreme Court's long history.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Kent, and to what

extent are you pessimistic?
 About the future of Kent, I as town justice, am precluded from answering this question, based on the "Judicial Canon of Ethics," for Judges.

Philip D. Marin

Why are you seeking this position?
 I am the proud son of a blue-collar father whose family emigrated to the U.S. from Italy. I am the product of my mother's love of education. My parents taught me to not forget where I came from, to treat people with decency and as equals, and, to come to the aide to those who need my help. As a lawyer I have applied these values and see every person as equal in the eyes of the law. As an attorney who practiced in the Kent Justice Court, I noticed that the Court was ill perceived as not doing what is required by law: to achieve substantial justice to the citizenry it serves. As a Judge in the Town of Kent, I will bring to the bench equality in the application of the law for those before the Court and will seek to balance the scales of justice for all. My hope is to bring a fair and efficient administration of the law as Judge. Moreover, I want my town to have the best, fairest and most efficient Justice Court not only in Putnam County, but in New York State. I am young and possess the energy, intelligence, experience and wherewithal to make this happen. I am beholden to none. I have not accepted donations during my campaign to ensure my independence. I will not be influenced by anything or

anyone, except what the law requires. I will do this with dignity, respect and compassion for those who will appear before me. It will be the utilization of these qualities that will bring honor, reverence and respect to the Justice Court.

Which jurists, living or deceased, do you admire?

This is a difficult question to answer. Depending on which periods of history or areas of law are being considered, the jurist will change. Our history is replete with so many learned jurists.

However, I would choose James Kent. It was his family from which our town was named.

Following the Revolution and the adoption of our Federal Constitution, James Kent became the highest judicial officer in the State of New York as the Chancellor of the Court of Chancery.

Not only did he write four highly regarded volumes on American/English law (Commentaries on American Law, 1826-1830), James Kent also effectively implemented equity jurisprudence into the American legal system for the first time while Chancellor.

It is his dedication to the law that I most admire because of his desire of requiring a writing in deciding cases, rather than the then practice of rendering decisions orally.

AGE: 40
FAMILY INFO: Son of: Carl F. Marin, Sr. and Ana B. Marin (both deceased); Brother: Carl F. Marin, Jr.; Sister: Carla L. Marin, attorney; Niece: Elizabeth Marie Marin, age 9; Nephew: Carl David Marin, age 2
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican, Independence, Democratic and Working Families parties. I am the nominated candidate by New York's Independence Party for Kent Town Justice
EDUCATION: SUNY BUFFALO School of Law 1994, Juris Doctorate, Concentration in criminal law, domestic violence, constitutional rights. SUNY ALBANY 1991, BA in American History, Minor in Classical Studies, Deans List student; Carmel High School 1987, Regents Diploma
CAREER: I practice law in Carmel, NY handling criminal and civil cases. Prior to law school, I worked in my sister's Carla Marin's law office in Carmel, NY, learning about the practice of law. During law school I interned at the Putnam County Supreme and County Courts under the Honorable William Braatz and the Honorable John Sweeney where I worked on all the types of civil and criminal cases that normally are before the various parts of Putnam's courts. After being admitted to the NYS bar, I continued to manage two personal injury law offices in NYC, one at 910 Grand Concourse in the Bronx, the second at 225 Broadway in Manhattan. I was responsible for over one thousand cases and was in charge of all the attorneys in both offices. I also ran a free legal clinic out of the Bronx office. Following this I entered into private practice where I concentrated in criminal law but my practice also involves civil law in areas such as Family Law, Probate practice and Not-for Profit Corporation law. I quickly realized that in Putnam County there was an urgent need for attorneys that provided services on a pro bono basis and for the last decade I have represented hundreds of people in Putnam County and the surrounding area without charging for my services because it was the right thing to do. Attorneys in New York are highly encouraged by the Bar to do pro bono work each year, but many do not heed the call.

Why did you enter the field of law?

To better serve my community and to exercise my skill to aide those in need as taught to me by my parents' ample examples.

Much unfairness exists in our society; as an attorney I would be effective to ensure just results and protect rights.

As a student of history, I understand that any strong society must have a foundation of respect and strict adherence to the rule of law. This is some-



Kevin L. Douchkoff

AGE: 53
FAMILY INFO: Wife Denise married 25 years, Daughter Kristen 21 yrs Son Kevin 19 yrs.
PARTY AFFILIATION: Endorsed Town of Kent Republican, Endorsed by Town of Kent Conservative Party, Endorsed by Putnam County Independence party
EDUCATION/CAREER: 1974 Graduated Brewster High School; 1975 Dutchess Community College 46 credits toward Criminal Justice; 1978 Graduated Police Academy; Department of Criminal Justice Service Certified Juvenile Officer; Department of Criminal Justice Service Certified D.A.R.E Officer; Department of Criminal Justice Service Crime Scene Investigator; Department of Criminal Justice Homicide Investigations; Department of Criminal Justice Inhalant Abuse Investigations; State of New York Fire Investigation - Cause and Origin State of New York Fire Behavior and Arson Awareness; Federal Bureau of Investigation Sex Crime Scene Investigation; Federal Bureau of Investigation Major Crime Scene Investigation; New York State Police Interviewing and Interrogating Techniques; New York State Police Major Crime Scene Investigations; New York Environmental Hazardous Material Investigations; Drug Enforcement Administration Narcotics Investigations; N.Y.D.H Sexual Offense Evidence Collection

Why are you seeking this position?

I am seeking this position because I know I will have an impact on the delivery of justice in the Town of Kent. My 31 years of service as a Police Officer with the Town of Kent Police has given me great respect for our judicial system. The knowledge and experiences that I have gained will assist me in the Town Justice position. I believe my reputation for fairness and honesty will easily translate into integrity on the bench. My involvements in many town programs and committees have given me a clear understanding of our community needs. Presently the majority of Town Justices in New York State are held by non attorneys, people like me who have a clear understanding of the community. I will use this understanding to continue to bring dignity and integrity to our justice system.

Which jurists, living or deceased, do you admire?

I admire Earl Warren, 14th Chief Justice of the United States because during his tenure he presided over many issues which affect all of us today to include civil rights, separation of church and

state, and police arrest procedures.

Why did you enter the field of law?

I entered the field of law to protect the rights of others. As a police officer I had a direct influence on the citizenry. I served as a detective and taught the DARE program in the Carmel Schools. It was the children who identified me as "Officer Kevin". During this tenure I developed an understanding of community members from all walks of life. I know the pulse of our community and will use this knowledge when elected. I have been recognized for my accomplishments by the Putnam Westchester Domestic Violence Association, Putnam Magistrates, and US Congress, to name a few.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Kent, and to what extent are you pessimistic? Describe each.

I am optimistic about the future of Kent with regard to the justice system. With the training that I bring to the bench, I am confident that I have the knowledge and ability that will allow me to deal with the administration of law in a fair but firm manner. I believe in using the community service program as a method of administering justice to violators of minor offenses. The only issue facing our Justice Courts that I am pessimistic about is things remaining status quo. I believe that it is important to bring new ideas to the justice courts.



J. Peter Collins (Incumbent)

AGE: 65
FAMILY INFO: Married to Martha (Marty) G. Collins, June 22, 1968
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican. Indorsed by: Republican, Democrat, Conservative and Independence Parties.
EDUCATION: Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, NY, 1962; Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH, 1966 - BS degree in Political Science; University of Cincinnati School of Law, Cincinnati, OH, 1969 - Juris Doctorate
CAREER: Assistant District Attorney, Westchester County, White Plains, NY - 1969-70; United States Army - 1970-77 - Judge Advocate General's Corps as prosecutor, defense counsel, Chief of Military Justice, Officer in Charge of Branch Office, Military Judge; Civil Litigation Attorney -1977 to present - King, Edwards & O'Connor and O'Connor, McGuinness, Conte, Doyle, Oleson & Collins, White Plains, New York (1977-99); Collins, Hanley & LaFrance, Carmel, New York (2000-07); Feldman, Kleidman & Coffey, LLP,

Why are you seeking this position?

I am seeking re-election, having been Town Justice for the past nine years, to continue with my efforts to improve the quality of justice citizens deserve when appearing in Court. Their confidence in the integrity of the system and the professionalism and integrity of those who administer it is of great importance to me. My legal education and background, along with my ethic, provide me with the foundation necessary to insure that my goal to enhance the system is achieved and that citizen confidence is maintained.

Which jurist, living or deceased, do you admire?

My two uncles, Justice Joseph F. Gagliardi, the former Administrative Judge of this State's Ninth Judicial District and Lee P. Gagliardi, United States Federal District Judge for the Southern

District of New York were both admired equally by me for their passion and support of the rule of law and their compassion and human understanding in the exercise of their judicial powers.

Why did you enter the field of law?

My grandfather, who became an attorney through the apprenticeship program in the 1930s encouraged me to attend law school. During my last year, I clerked for a firm in Cincinnati and under supervision from the senior partner, I met with clients, drafted contracts and other legal documents, and was involved in the resolution of legal disputes. This was the first practical application of my legal education. The satisfaction that I derived from knowing that I knew the law and had helped another resolve a legal dilemma was

one of the most gratifying experience of my young life. This is the reason I still practice law today. I chose litigation because of the challenges and confrontations inherent in trial practice.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Kent, and to what extent are you pessimistic?

I am optimistic that the Town leaders will continue in the future with care and caution in order to maintain its marvelous natural resources, including its many beautiful lakes and parks.

I, like most Town citizens, am pessimistic about the ever increasing real estate tax burden that is troublesome to seniors, people on fixed incomes and our young adults, who can't afford to purchase a home within the community where they were raised.

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