

# **Q & A with Justice Rebecca Bradley, candidate for Wisconsin Supreme Court; answers provided 1/25/16**

## **1. Identify what you believe to be your single most important qualification for serving on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.**

My single most important qualification for serving on the Wisconsin Supreme Court is the breadth of my experience. I am the first Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice in state history to have served as both a trial court judge and court of appeals judge. Prior to my judicial service, I practiced law as a civil litigator, business transactional attorney, and arbitrator for more than 16 years.

## **2. Please point to a decision you have written that reveals something relevant about your judicial philosophy, and highlight what that is.**

In [\*State v. Gant\*](#), 2015 WI. App. 83, a published decision I wrote while serving on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, I applied case law precedent regarding the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution in holding that the police lawfully seized Gant's computers from his home while investigating the apparent suicide of Gant's wife. I also rejected Gant's argument that the lengthy retention of his computers by the police warranted suppression of the child pornography evidence later found on the computers under a valid search warrant. This opinion demonstrates my adherence to a philosophy of judicial restraint. I applied case law precedent to the unique facts presented rather than creating new law.

## **3. Wisconsin's Supreme Court has drawn negative attention for various indicators of discord among its members. Please explain what you are doing and would do to reduce tensions and promote collegiality on the court.**

During my 20 years in the legal and judicial professions, I have always been able to get along well with my colleagues, opposing counsel and everyone else with whom I work. While we worked together at Children's Court, one of my opponents in this race, Judge Joe Donald, said "it is a delight and a joy to work with Judge Bradley." I bring to the Supreme Court a positive personal and judicial temperament that encourages and promotes collegiality and the respectful exchange of ideas. During my current service as a Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice, I am contributing positively to the interactions among my fellow Justices.

## **4. Name a single Wisconsin Supreme Court justice, past or present, whom you admire, and tell why.**

I admire the late Justice Patrick Crooks, whose term I am currently fulfilling, for his service to our nation in the U.S. Army and his service to the people of Wisconsin as a jurist for 38 years. I admire him as a person for his deep faith and devotion to his family.

**5. Do you believe that Wisconsin's Supreme Court is, as a matter of law, subject to the state's public records and open meetings laws?**

Because this is an issue that may come before the Court, the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits me from offering an opinion regarding the scope of these laws; doing so would be inconsistent with the impartial performance of my duties as a Supreme Court Justice. I do respond fully to records requests.