

## ELECTIONS 2012

# Keys to the Candidates: Monroe Circuit Court Judge, Seat 3

League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County

October 4, 2012

**Alphonso Manns, D**

**Francie Hill, R**

### What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking?

**MANNs:** I hold degrees in science, law, and public affairs. I practiced law in Indiana for over thirty years, including criminal as well as civil cases.

**HILL:** Incumbent Circuit Court Judge (6 years), Juvenile Court Referee (6 years), 32 years lawyer, Associate Professor IU Law, Consultant Indiana Supreme Court, developed CASA program.

### How will you address overcrowding at the jail?

**MANNs:** Judges must be concerned with community safety. There are two (2) types of criminal offenders: violent and non-violent. Violent offenders must be separated from the general public and sentenced for a reasonable period of time within the range of penalties and the judgment of the court based upon the evidence required by law, which means invariably incarceration, but with opportunities and incentives for rehabilitation, and eventual release to live responsibly in a free society. Non-violent offenders should be given the opportunity to participate in community alternative sentencing programs in lieu of incarceration, but subject to appropriate sanctions and rehabilitation.

**HILL:** When consistent with community safety and defendant accountability, I will use the following to reduce overcrowding and insure compliance with bed limits under the federal consent decree: (1) Pretrial detention policies to avoid incarceration of non-violent offenders; (2) Daily and weekend bail reviews to release appropriate, non-violent offenders; (3) Sentencing alternatives through community corrections; (4) Problem solving courts, including Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans' Court for targeted rehabilitation efforts; (5) Community education and networking to increase mental health and addiction services; (6) Seek Department of Correction funding to re-establish county work release program.

### What would be your specific goals for your tenure as judge?

**MANNs:** I will strive to enhance and maintain public confidence in the administration of justice. This requires consistent professional distinction by adhering to the canons of judicial ethics and full commitment to the fundamental principles that underlie our judicial system. I will uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary, avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety, and perform the duties of the office impartially and diligently with maximum effort to fulfill judicial obligations. Those duties include a thorough assessment of the office and make appropriate recommendations to improve the quality of services related to judicial administration,

**HILL:** My goals are: (1) Maintain efficiency and best practices in all my court cases; (2) Collaborate with community volunteers to provide legal assistance to the growing number of people who cannot afford attorneys; (3) Develop affordable investigative tools to ensure informed decision making in custody cases involving domestic violence, drugs, and mental health issues; (4) Conduct legal education forums for lawyers, CASAs, and mental health providers serving children; (5) Seek grants to reinstitute Children's Door program for safe visitation exchanges; (6) Complete revision of Supreme Court Parenting Time Guidelines and new Parallel Parenting Plan for high-conflict families.