

Letters to the editor

Critic way off base on Costello qualifications

I read with disbelief Stephen Rubins comments about Attorney Kieran Costello's alleged lack of preparation for the position of probate judge by virtue of his vocation as a family-law lawyer ("Wexler is easy choice to be probate judge," Sept. 27).

I have practiced family law for 35 years and have dealt with Attorney Costello for 20 of those.

To those on the outside, practicing family law may seem like an episode out of L.A. law. In reality, and in the trenches, it is one of the most difficult areas of law to practice. It is an area which is people intensive and family-crises driven.

It involves constant interaction with counsel for the minor children, compassion for your client and even compassion for the other spouse while solving family issues in the most difficult of times.

That kind of experience is precisely what eminently qualifies Attorney Costello to sit as Westport/Weston's probate judge.

**Richard Kent
Westport**

Costello has experience, traits for probate judge

I encourage voters to support Kieran Costello in the upcoming election for probate judge for Westport and Weston. Kieran has consistently demonstrated both the professional and personal traits needed to become an effective, respected judge.

Kieran's professional qualifications are well documented by his 21 years practicing law, with a concentration in probate law. He is a very capable and widely respected attorney.

He has practiced in nearly every probate court in Fairfield and New Haven counties, where he represents parties in the probate of estates and where he has been involved in hundreds of conservatorship and guardianship proceedings.

He has taught topics in probate law on the college level for 19 years. He serves as a court-appointed special master in courts throughout the state. Additionally, he has served on the boards and volunteered for many important local social service agencies throughout Fairfield County.

Kieran is well known for his strong work ethic, compassion and unquestionable integrity — important attributes for a probate judge. I am confident these traits will be the hallmark of Kieran Costello's tenure as probate judge.

As a lawyer myself, with 18 years of legal experience, I believe that Kieran Costello's solid legal experience, good judgment and impeccable character make him the ideal candidate for probate judge. I hope you will join me in voting for Kieran on Election Day.

**Nancy D. Gallagher
Westport**

Courtroom foe endorses Costello's probate bid

I am an attorney, and I live in Westport. I write in enthusiastic support of the candidacy of Kieran Costello for probate judge of Westport and Weston. As a family law attorney, I have had the opportunity to observe Kieran Costello, in and out of court, for more than 10 years.

I have been opposing counsel to him in both collaborative and contested divorces, including ones tried to a verdict.

Although we have been opponents and argued difficult cases against each other, Attorney Costello has always been fair and honest in his dealings with fellow counsel, while at the same time maintaining a strong advocacy position for his clients.

Based on my experience with Attorney Costello, I believe he has all the requisite qualities of an effective probate judge. He is a skilled member of the bar who is highly knowledgeable about the law. He approaches problems with a sense of fairness. He is decisive, very attentive to detail, and is responsive and prompt.

Attorney Costello also has the ability to get along with everyone, including his adversaries, the judges, the court staff and his clients. One characteristic that sets him apart from too many of his fellow lawyers is his great sense of civility. He will bring this same skill, fairness and ability to make hard decisions to the estate and custody issues that confront a probate judge.

In addition, his civic involvement over many years demonstrates his commitment to our Westport community. I fully support Attorney Kieran Costello.

**Nancy Aldrich
Westport**

Reasons to support Costello for probate

I am supporting and voting for Kieran Costello for probate judge for Westport and Weston. Here are my reasons.

Kieran Costello:

Has the experience, integrity and compassion essential for this position.

Is well-respected by local probate and superior court judges in Connecticut.

Has actively practiced law for 21 years with a concentration in probate law.

Has taught topics in probate law on the college level for 19 years.

Has practiced in nearly every probate court in Fairfield and New Haven counties.

Has been involved in hundreds of conservatorship and guardianship proceedings.

Represents interested parties in probating of estates.

Kieran Costello's volunteer experience includes:

Providing free legal advice to hundreds of senior citizens in nursing homes and senior

citizen centers.

Serving as a court-appointed special master in Connecticut family courts.

Providing free legal assistance to women and children victims of domestic violence.

Serving as a host for A Better Chance of Westport.

You can find more information about Kieran Costello's background and experience on his website, <http://www.kierancostelloforprobatejudge.com/>.

I hope you will join me on Nov. 5 in voting for Kieran Costello for probate judge.

Martha Aasen
Westport

POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT LETTERS

Costello: Vote for an expert, not a party

To the Editor:

When in front of a probate judge to discuss conservatorship, guardianship and commitment proceedings, you must be exceptionally confident that your judge is grounded in the complexity of probate matters. Kieran Costello has been involved in hundreds of these proceedings.

Actively practicing law for over 21 years with a concentration in probate matters, and teaching probate law for 19 years, Kieran has counseled

local seniors and provided free legal services to victims of domestic violence.

Vote for the expert you want to be in front of versus what political party they are from. Kieran Costello teaches probate law, practices probate law and has the compassion you require.

Karen and Brian McMahon
Lords Highway, Sept. 12

Costello: Knowledge and compassion

To the Editor:

I have known Kieran Costello professionally for

many years and believe that he would serve effectively as our next probate judge.

Our respective law offices have worked together on several complicated matters over the years. I have observed Kieran's legal skills in both the courtroom and in settlement negotiations.

Based on my personal experience with Kieran, I believe that he has the requisite legal knowledge and compassion to successfully serve the Westport/Weston community as the next probate judge.

Edward Nusbaum, Esq.
Old Hyde Road, Sept. 13