

**Potrero Hill Democratic Club  
District Attorney Candidate Appearance  
Tuesday, August 30, 2022 on Zoom**

**Candidate Questionnaire**

Candidate name: Brooke Jenkins  
Contact person: Jade Tu  
Email address: hello@brookejenkinssf.com  
Web site: brookejenkinssf.com

*Please write a brief response (up to 200 words) to each question. **Please email the completed questionnaire to contact\_us@phdemclub.org by Sunday, August 28.** The questionnaires will be made available online to club members.*

**1. Why are you running and why should we vote for you?**

With my years of experience as the designated hate crimes prosecutor, and in the Sexual Assault and Homicide Units, I believe that I am uniquely prepared to address the most serious crimes affecting San Francisco. But it's not just violent crime that must be a priority and focus of our office. No longer can we dismiss certain crimes as victimless or view property crimes as a part of big city life. These crimes affect us all, our quality of life and for some who own businesses here, their livelihoods.

As a Black and Latina woman, who was raised by a single mother, I uniquely understand the systemic racism that has plagued the criminal justice system in America and have had multiple family members and friends impacted by those injustices. I understand the need to create a more equitable and fair criminal justice system with accountability that emphasizes responsible alternatives to incarceration and that attempts to correct past ills within this system.

Under my leadership, the DA's office will work diligently every single day to restore our beautiful city to a place that is safe for everyone and to create a justice system that is equitable and fair. .

**2. What sets you apart from your opponents?**

First and foremost, I am the only candidate in this race that has any experience as a prosecutor. San Francisco needs and deserves a District Attorney that has demonstrated a commitment to public safety and to promoting equity in the criminal justice system. I have a proven track record of having done both during my 7 ½ years as a prosecutor in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. In order to truly improve the public safety issues that exist in San Francisco, the District Attorney needs to understand how the San Francisco DA's office functions, who the judges in our Superior Court are and most importantly, what it takes to actually prosecute crime effectively. I am the only candidate that possesses this knowledge and experience.

I am also the only candidate in this race who truly understands the plight of the most marginalized communities of color in San Francisco. Communities that both disproportionately make up the largest percentage of our defendants but also at the same time make up the largest percentage of our victims as well - especially of violent crime. It is one thing to talk about the need for reform from a theoretical

standpoint, it's another to have a personal understanding of it based on lived experience. Thus, the commitment to reform, equity and proportional justice that I possess is one that is deep and personal.

**3. What do you view as the top three issues facing the San Francisco District Attorney's office? Please describe your solutions for those issues.**

The top three issues facing the District Attorney's Office are:

- 1) Lack of Attorney experience: The DA's office lost over 60 attorneys during the past 2 ½ years which depleted the office of more experienced prosecutors who were replaced by attorneys with little to no prosecution experience. In order to prosecute crime effectively, we need skilled and experienced attorneys who understand how to present a complex trial to a jury, and also understand how to create opportunities for offenders to engage in opportunities for rehabilitation.
- 2) Large Case Loads: For many years now, the case loads in many of our units including General Felonies and Domestic Violence are far too high. We need additional attorney requisitions in order to ensure that victims and cases are receiving the attention that they deserve and to prevent attorneys from making unnecessary mistakes in discovery.
- 3) Victim Services Division: San Francisco is a very diverse city with many non-English speaking residents. In order for the victim services division to truly be able to serve our victims we need to expand the unit so that we can hire bilingual advocates for many communities with different language needs.

**4. What are some specific public safety strategies currently being implemented in San Francisco that you agree or disagree with? With these strategies in mind, what do you intend to do about public safety if elected District Attorney?**

Recently, I've introduced a new strategy aimed at tackling drug dealing in our City. Drug dealers who are repeat offenders/heavily involved with fentanyl can now be subjected to pre-trial detention to keep them off our streets. Drug dealers can now face sentence enhancements for dealing within 1,000 feet of a school. Finally, drug dealers who are caught with more than 5 grams of illegal substances on them will no longer be redirected to collaborative courts where they can avoid conviction. My office has also revoked 30 plea deals given to drug dealers under my predecessor. I believe we must send a strong message that if people sell lethal drugs in our city, they will be held accountable.

My office will prosecute and ensure that repeat offenders are brought to justice. I have brought on experienced prosecutors such as Julius DeGuia, Nancy Tung, and Ana Gonzalez to help fulfill this mission. We must send a strong message that victims of crimes will receive justice and that repeat offenders will face consequences.

There has been a disturbing rise in hate crimes targeting our Asian American community. I have listened to Asian community leaders, and as someone with experience prosecuting hate crimes, I am committed to bringing perpetrators of hate crimes to justice. To that end, I created a Vulnerable

Victims Unit to handle all physical violence cases against elders as well as hate crimes. My office is currently reviewing cases involving Asian American victims to ensure the offenders are properly charged. Additionally, my office is looking to hire more bilingual interpreters so that Asian Americans who are monolingual/first language is not English are able to easily access my office and contact us for services.

**5. What is your position on the death penalty? If you would seek it as District Attorney, how would you minimize the risk of sentencing an innocent person to death?**

I oppose the death penalty and would not seek it when charging an offender.

**6. What is your position on prosecuting minors as adults? What is your position on juvenile hall, and what sort of sentencing recommendations do you support for minors (whether convicted of a misdemeanor or felony)?**

As a general principle I believe that we should presume that juvenile offenders should remain in juvenile court. My juvenile policy will be released in the coming weeks.

**7. What policies and practices can you implement to combat bias in decision-making within your Office, including in charging decisions, bail recommendations, diversion program placements, and plea bargains – as well as in internal Office practices?**

The first way to combat bias is to hire a diverse staff and management team so that those making the decisions with respect to charging and case outcomes are people who reflect the same diversity as those for which we prosecute. I have worked hard to hire a very diverse management team that I believe represents just that.

I would also like to see our office pilot a race-blind charging program so that we can attempt to even further ensure that charging decisions are not influenced by any bias whatsoever.

**8. What is your position on the California Court of Appeal's recent decision on charging three strikes offenses?**

My position is that it requires all DA's offices across the state of California to include prior serious and violent felonies on our charging documents. The decision is currently pending review by the California Supreme Court.

I should be clear that this opinion does not impact how we resolve cases involving serious and violent felonies. We are not required to impose three strikes law in any case and it is the discretion of the DA's office whether to ever seek a three strikes sentence in any case. Thus, we most often do not do so and that will not change under my leadership, except in very extreme circumstances.

**9. How will your office investigate officer-involved shootings and other accusations of police misconduct?**

As a Black and Latina woman, I am acutely aware of the racial biases that law enforcement can have. My family has had personal experience with police brutality, racial profiling and abuse of power. For people to have faith in our justice system, it is imperative that the law is being equally enforced regardless of skin color. I am committed to ensuring that when police misconduct arises, the police are held accountable.

In accordance with this aim, I have appointed Darby Williams, an attorney with experience both as a public defender and a prosecutor, to head the Independent Investigations Bureau, which will investigate incidents of police misconduct. She is highly capable and qualified and will conduct these investigations ethically and will be able to effectively prosecute these cases in the courtroom.

**10. What does the ideal relationship with between the District Attorney's office and the San Francisco Police Department look like, and how will you go about achieving that relationship?**

I believe the police play a critical role in maintaining public safety in San Francisco, investigating crime and arresting those who are responsible for committing crime. Our role is to hold those offenders accountable. That requires collaboration in order to achieve this goal and to create deterrents to crime in San Francisco. As District Attorney, my office will work with the Police Department to ensure that they conduct thorough investigations and provide us with cases that we can charge and move forward within the court system. Since taking office, the lines of communication between myself and Chief Scott have been completely open and we have already met several times in order to discuss ways in which our agencies can improve upon the work that we do.

*Thank you for taking the time to fill this out, and thanks for running!*