



**Judicial Candidate Information Form  
for the Judicial Poll on the April 4,  
2020 Election**

**Instructions:** Please only respond using 10 pt. Arial font in the spaces provided. Any items left blank will be noted that the candidate chose not to respond.

1. Name	Aylin Acikalin
2. Date of Birth	Month: <u>December</u> Year: <u>1976</u>
3. Place of Birth	City: <u>Johnstown</u> State: <u>PA</u> moved to Louisiana in 1978
4. Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed
5. Undergraduate Education  Include name of school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs B.A., International Affairs, cum laude 1998 Externship at Bosnia Task Force, US Pentagon and Department of Agriculture
6. Legal Education  Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Tulane Law School J.D., Environmental Law Certificate, 2004 Environmental Law Clinic Moot Court Editor, International Law Journal
7. Date of Admission to Louisiana Bar	Month: _____ Year: <u>2005</u>
8. Professional Experience Including Nature of Practice and Extent of Civil and/or Criminal Trial Experience	Legislative Corr./Deputy to COS, Sen. Landrieu  Clerk, Adams&Reese, NOLA (civil/commercial)  Clerk, Jobard Chemla, Paris, FR (int'l law/arbitration)  Clerk, Hon. Terri Love, La. 4th Cir. Court of Appeal (civil/medical malpractice)  Clerk, Hon. Nadine Ramsey, CDC, 2004-2006 (civil)  Assoc., Kanner & Whiteley, 2006-2008 (class action civil)  Legal Analyst, Bureau of Gov'tal Research, 2008-2009 (gov't/policy)   Office of Alice Newman, Boca Raton, FL, 2012-2014 (estates)  Leg. Dir., City Councilmember Nadine Ramsey, 2014-2018 (gov't/policy)   Owner, Law Office of Aylin Acikalin, 2018-pr (general civil)  Paralegal, ADZ Law, San Mateo, CA, 2018-pr (family/DV law)

 **NEW ORLEANS  
BAR ASSOCIATION**

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<p>9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities</p>	<p>New Orleans Bar Association, Louisiana Association of Justice (former), National Council of Jewish Women, Independent Women's Organization, Emerge Louisiana Admissions: Louisiana, Florida Courts Admissions: Louisiana state courts, E.D. La., Florida state courts, Pro Hac Vice in C.D. California, N.D. Iowa, Illinois</p>
<p>10. In the past ten years, have you ever filed for or declared bankruptcy?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain.</p>
<p>11. In the past ten years, have you ever been arrested, charged, or convicted of a criminal violation other than a minor traffic violation? Include matters that have been dismissed, expunged, subject to diversion or deferred prosecution or otherwise set aside.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain.</p>
<p>12. Have you ever been publicly sanctioned by the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board or the disciplinary body of any court, administrative body, or other entity before which you function as an attorney or judge?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain.</p>



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Instructions: For sections 13 through 19, please provide us with your perspective on why you are well-suited to uphold the following well-accepted principles essential to any strong and vibrant judicial system. Comment only in the space provided. If you do not comment, it will be noted that the candidate chose not to respond.

<p>13. Judges should uphold the rule of law.</p>	<p>Justice and the rule of law is the fabric that holds our society together and is the basis of our social contract of democracy. I have practiced law in civil courts in Louisiana state and federal court and federal courts in California, Iowa and Illinois. I also have worked on the legislative side, contributing to making the law in the US Senate and New Orleans City Council. Having written law, applied the law as a judicial clerk, and been an advocate for clients, I have respect for the legislative and political process that creates law. I will uphold my duty as a judge to apply the law as written and refrain from legislating from the bench, even if I personally do not like the result.</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>I have extensive experience as a judicial law clerk and community mediator which trained me to be independent and impartial. I have represented or provided litigation support for plaintiffs, defendants, small business, individuals, victims and pro bono clients. I have supported and been supported by both plaintiff and defense bar. As a judge, I will not consider political or special interests. I have heard attorneys advise not to make certain motions because it will "make the judge mad". Everyone has a right to bring any nonfrivolous argument before the court. I will never let emotion prevent me from an impartial and independent decision on a meritorious claim.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>The integrity of due process requires a judge to listen with an open mind and affords litigants and counsel the respect and dignity they deserve, regardless of education race, gender, sexual orientation or any other factor. In addition to being a lawyer, I have spent most of my career as a public servant, including most recently as legislative director at the City Council. I am a trained community mediator by the New York Peace Institute. My age and experience in law, public service, and as a mother of two, solving complex legal, community and family problems, has given me the patience and openness to hear conflicting perspectives and come to a fair decision.</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>I am a first generation Turkish-American. There is a significant population of people in New Orleans from Turkish and middle eastern descent. There are currently only 12 elected Turkish Americans in the United States and only one judge. I would be the first Turkish-American elected official in Louisiana that I know of.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>I have a combined 21 years of legal, public service and mediation experience in several jurisdictions. I have been a resident of Orleans for nearly my entire life and have demonstrated commitments to public service and the community through my church, nonprofit organizations, providing and supporting pro bono legal services, and my prior work in government. I am committed to running a modern, efficient court which will reduce costs of litigation, increase access to justice and judicial efficiency.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>I currently have a general civil practice in Louisiana and provide litigation support to a family law and victims rights firm in California. I have had cases in federal and state courts in multiple jurisdictions and been able to quickly and efficiently become competent in a variety of substantive areas. My legal career is focused on civil litigation, which is the jurisdiction First City Court.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>I am known as being tech savvy and getting things done. I helped with the post-Katrina disaster recovery of the court though my clerkship had officially ended, shuttling from Gonzales to Nola, locating litigants and counsel, advising on emergency orders, while also managing my own property loss. I will explore plans to implement the best practices I learned from practicing in many jurisdictions, including the use of standard orders and forms and technology, such as telephonic and video appearances to facilitate access to court and reduce costs for litigants.</p>