



**Judicial Candidate Information Form
for the Judicial Poll on the
November 3, 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	Derwyn Bunton
2. Date of Birth	Month: <u>May</u> Year: <u>1972</u>
3. Place of Birth	City: <u>Banning</u> State: <u>CA</u>
4. Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed
5. Undergraduate Education Include name of school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	San Diego State University, B.A. Political Science, 1995
6. Legal Education Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	New York University School of Law, J.D., 1998
7. Date of Admission to Louisiana Bar	Month: <u>October</u> Year: <u>1998</u>
8. Professional Experience Including Nature of Practice and Extent of Civil and/or Criminal Trial Experience	Currently, and for the last 11 years, I have served as the Chief District Defender for New Orleans (criminal practice, policy). Prior to my current role, I was the Executive Director of the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (Juvenile, Child in Need of Care); Associate Director for the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (civil rights, policy, appellate); Lawyer for the Orleans Indigent Defender Program (juvenile/criminal practice, appellate); and Staff Attorney for the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (civil rights, policy, appellate, juvenile). My career spans 22 years.



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9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities	Member, Louisiana State Bar Association; Member, New Orleans Bar Association; Member, Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Society; Member, LSBA Criminal Justice Committee; Member, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys; Member, National Legal Aid and Defender Association; Chairperson, National Association for Public Defense; Member, American Bar Association; Member, American Bar Association Plea Bargaining Task Force; Board Chairperson, Fair Fight Initiative; Member, Pew Charitable Trusts Community Supervision Advisory Council; I am admitted to practice in Louisiana.
10. In the past ten years, have you ever filed for or declared bankruptcy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain.
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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain.
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain.



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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>As Judge, my clients will be equity, justice, and fairness. I will be committed to their cause - because they matter. I will work to protect innocence, equity, justice, and fairness. I will hold all parties in my courtroom accountable - accountable for their actions and to the law. The law, and adherence to it, is an important tool in the fight to advance and protect our society. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important."</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>Judges should not shrink from using the judicial power to enforce equity and fairness. Judges must apply the law equally to the rich and the poor - holding people and power accountable. We need judges who believe they can inject fairness, equity, and justice into our system, not judges who simply hold power. This is the philosophy I will bring to the bench.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>I remember meeting a teen-aged boy in juvenile prison. He had serious mental health problems. We sat on a concrete floor, inside a concrete room - an observation cell in the infirmary. I sat in business casual with a notepad and pen. He sat naked, with healing wounds and dried blood on his face, neck, arms and chest - evidence of failed and superficial suicide attempts. He was naked because the institution determined it was too dangerous to provide him with clothes. We sat and talked about his treatment, his life, and the conditions at the institution. Even under the most desperate conditions and circumstances, I have proven I can be steady, resolute and humane.</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>My entire professional career has been about ensuring adults and children have someone trained and committed to their cause. I wanted our clients - mostly Black and always poor - to be able to see themselves in their advocate and have someone who could stand next to them and treat them like they mattered. A diverse bench is critical. We need judges who have stood next to (and in the shoes of) people impacted by our criminal legal system. Our community ought to be able to see themselves in our judiciary.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>We need judges with perspective, and the ability to act responsibly with dignity - while innovating and transforming at the same time. This is one of the reasons I want to be judge. The same spirit I used (with community help) to transform the Orleans Public Defenders Office from unconstitutional to irrepressible, is the same spirit I will bring to the bench. As a judge, I will continue to partner and work with community. For example, at the Orleans Public Defenders Office, we started events like the Second Line for Equal Justice, where we walked with community to raise awareness about needed reform in our criminal legal system. I want something similar for the bench.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>My career and education prepared me incredibly well to serve as judge. I have always valued education, and I have a voracious appetite for learning and writing. I graduated college Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude. I earned my law degree from NYU Law School, where I attended on a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholarship, a full scholarship based on academic achievement and a demonstrated commitment to public service. I have litigated in federal court, district and juvenile courts around the state, and I have litigated in every Louisiana appellate circuit. I have litigated before the Louisiana Supreme Court. I bring 22 years of experience and perspective.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>Once elected, I will implement three important changes. One, I will work to bring the latest technology to the bench, to efficiently and fairly schedule and resolve matters before the court. I will work with all parties and court personnel, to create a sensible court calendar - one that is flexible and respects everyone's time. Two, I will implement best practices for case administration. This includes setting fair procedural rules and demanding the highest standards of practice. Finally, Jury service is important, noble work. I will hold jurors only as long as a traditional workday for trial: from 9-5. Jurors should not be away from their families for longer.</p>