



**Judicial Candidate Information Form  
for the Judicial Poll for the  
November 4, 2014 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	Cynthia D. Samuel
2. Date of Birth	Month: <u>August</u> Year: <u>1963</u>
3. Place of Birth	City: <u>New Orleans</u> State: <u>LA</u>
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)	University of New Orleans B.A., Political Science 1986
6. Legal Education  Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Loyola School of Law at New Orleans J.D. 1990
7. Date of Admission to Louisiana Bar	Month: <u>April</u> Year: <u>1991</u>
8. Professional Experience Including Nature of Practice and Extent of Civil and/or Criminal Trial Experience	I have practiced predominantly juvenile law for over twenty-three years, including delinquency (criminal), child protection, adoption, voluntary and involuntary termination of parental rights, represented children, indigent parents, adopting parents, grandparents. A more detailed description of my vast and multi-faceted experience in juvenile law is listed on my web site. I have been a trial attorney, in both civil and criminal cases. I have handled hundreds of trials and over ten thousand various juvenile court hearings, and hundreds of juvenile mediations. I have been a speaker on juvenile law and a panelist for training.



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9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities	Louisiana Bar, U.S. Supreme Court Bar, Eastern District of Louisiana, American Bar Association (Children's Rights Litigation Comm.), N. O. Bar Assn. (formerly), Center on Children and the Law, National Assn. of Counsel for Children, Child Welfare League of America, Association of Women Attorneys, Independent Women's Organization, University of New Orleans Alumni Association, Lakeview Civic Improvement Association (LCIA), Kiwanis International.
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. None that was ever upheld on appeal.



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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>A judge must know the law, but must also understand principles of logical reasoning to correctly apply the law to the facts to analyze any particular case. In over two decades of practice, I have honed my skills and knowledge, and have significantly more experience than the other candidates. I have won cases through the appellate process involving several constitutional issues, the foundation of all law. I have accumulated more than twice the required CLEs for the clear and simple purpose of becoming the best lawyer I can be -- not for myself but for the people I serve and to better fulfill my duties as an officer of the court.</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>I have proven my independence. While I have support from some political organizations, my campaign is largely self-funded and I have no ties to any political machine. I want to be a judge to serve the people.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>Temperament is largely a trait; character is acquired through experience. I have both. I am passionate about preserving families and about the city of my birth. I have vast experience in my field of law and understand both the boldness required and the nuances of family dynamics that influence cases in Juvenile Court. As a Juvenile Court judge, I can influence and improve the future of New Orleans with appropriate sentencing, thorough probing of unseen factors. From the experiences of my own life story I have developed the fortitude for the bench.</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>Having grown up in the Treme' and having served our diverse community for many years, I am keenly aware of the importance of diversity in addition to both understanding and embracing cultural differences. My clients have come from a multitude of backgrounds, nationalities, races and economic classes, and I agree that the judicial system must be diverse. I have earned their trust through my dedication and service and will do the same as a jurist.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>This principle is the foundation of a stable judicial system, the public must have confidence that rulings will be fair, impartial and legally correct. My independence of political obligations, my knowledge of the law and more importantly my understanding of the law make me keenly able to make fair and legally correct decisions. Public confidence also comes from the quality of active listening. My clients frequently tell me, I am the first person who actually listened to the facts of the case. I will do the same as a judge. People need to feel they have been heard.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>My experience and education are superior in this field of candidates. With due respect my opponents, I have exceeded the MCLE, three or four times the required hours and I have multi-faceted experience in areas of juvenile law lacking in my opponents. A juvenile court judge must have know more than the Children's Code. She must know and understand educational law, disability law, mental health law (and treatment), substance abuse treatment, child psychology, child development and more. My vast MCLE has provided me this knowledge.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>Efficiency is crucial, not only for smooth operation of the system but for justice to be served. As a sole practitioner in my practice, I effectively manage not only my cases but, a law practice, as well as rearing two children as a single parent and volunteer activities. I have the requisite skills to do the same in court, and will hold both my staff and those who appear before me to the same standard. That said, I will not sacrifice the quality of my judicial service for the sake of expediency. Efficiency must incorporate quality if the end of justice is to be served.</p>