



**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	Meghan Garvey
2. Date of Birth	Month: May      Year: 1975
3. Place of Birth	City: Indianapolis      State: Indiana
4. Marital Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed
5. Undergraduate Education  Include name of school, degree(s) and graduation year (s)	Indiana University, BA in English, 2000
6. Legal Education  Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year (s)	Tulane University, JD, 2005
7. Date of Admission to Louisiana Bar	Month: October      Year: 2005
8. Professional Experience Including Nature of Practice and Extent of Civil and/or Criminal Trial Experience	Orleans Public Defenders, Bond Attorney, October 2017 to present: Represented arrestees at initial court appearances; worked with mayor's office and court to develop policies to reduce pretrial detention; co-authored LSBA's Report on Bail; advised ACLU, MacArthur Justice Center, and New Orleans Alliance for Equity and Justice on pretrial detention reduction strategies; trained staff attorneys; appointed to Statewide Legislative Task Force on Pretrial Detention. Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, Managing Director, December 2012 to October 2017: Wrote legislation, designed strategy and committee hearing testimony on legislative initiatives relating to juvenile justice; managed attorneys and support staff to provide holistic defense of juveniles; organized community legal clinics. Orleans Public Defenders, June 2006 to December 2012: Felony trial attorney and supervisor.



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<p>9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities</p>	<p>Admitted to Louisiana State Bar in 2005. LSBA Criminal Justice Committee, Member. Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Secretary and Legislative Chair. National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Member. National Association of Public Defenders, Member.</p>
<p>10. In the past ten years, have you ever filed for or declared bankruptcy?</p>	<p>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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes    No    If yes, please explain.</p> <p>In 2009 I was arrested in the courtroom of Judge Frank Marullo for contempt. The court objected to a cross examination question asked of an eyewitness during a perpetuation of testimony hearing. I spent seven hours in custody until the Louisiana Supreme Court granted me an appeal bond. The Supreme Court subsequently reversed my conviction after finding no basis for a finding of contempt.</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>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>I will apply the law fairly and impartially at all stages of a case. I will not set bonds that result in baseless pretrial detention and will not extort guilty pleas from poor people in order to move my docket. I will use my judicial capacity to assist in ensuring that cases are promptly resolved, without sacrificing Due Process. I will impose fair sanctions and will only assess fines and fees that are legally appropriate and that adhere to the Constitutional prohibition against debtors' prison. There are currently 737,169 open cases in Municipal Court, and 88% of these misdemeanor cases have been lingering for four years. This crushing backlog of cases includes charges declared unconstitutional by the Louisiana Supreme Court. I will work with all parties to find efficient solutions to this problem that holds back our court system and our citizens.</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>The outcome of a case should not depend upon whom the parties or their attorneys know. I will resolve cases on the facts as they are presented and proved to me. I believe that judges should serve the people and the Constitution rather than themselves. I will use a public hiring process for any court position to find qualified candidates with expertise and will prize professionalism over patronage. I embrace the strict ethical rules for judges that contribute to the public's faith in the system. I welcome the City of New Orleans' "zero based budgeting" approach and will work to justify every taxpayer dollar spent.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>I will ensure that those entitled to representation by the public defender receive it. I will also take the time to ensure that pro se parties are aware of their rights and understand the process. Misdemeanor and traffic offenses may seem insignificant in the grand scheme of things, but these charges are significant to those victimized and those defending themselves. I have 15 years of experience representing indigent juveniles and adults, charged with everything from misdemeanors to murder. Through this experience, I came to value the dignity of all people. I will not tolerate unprofessional behavior from attorneys in my courtroom, but my personal feelings toward attorneys will not influence my legal rulings. I will not punish the people attorneys represent in an effort to "teach an attorney a lesson."</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>I have seen how unjust systems primarily hurt people of color. Many of these deficits are due to the tunnel vision of people who have never been on the receiving end of its negative impact. I am a white woman, and no matter how many clients I have represented, some amount of privilege shapes my perspective. For these reasons, I will work to ensure diversity amongst court staff, will set times to meet with community groups, and will consult with experts of color and formerly incarcerated people to innovate the system. I welcome evaluations of my performance. Additionally, I'd like to share that the judiciary should be diverse in terms of prior professional experience. Campaign costs have long inhibited public defenders from serving as judges.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>Judges and the judiciary must earn the confidence of the public. I will earn the public's confidence by serving fairly and impartially, by promoting transparency, by working with prosecutors and defense attorneys to clear the backlog of prescribed and unconstitutional charges, and by opening my books to justify every dollar spent.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>I have been a career public servant. I have cared for HIV-affected children; served as case manager for formerly homeless people; represented children and adults in the criminal justice system; and advocated at the Legislature for laws that better serve the public and the court system. I have seen the root causes of misdemeanor crime up close and will work to steer people away from the system and toward opportunity. I want to protect the public from violence, theft, and dangerous driving without perpetuating a never-ending cycle of poverty, incarceration, and petty crime.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>The number of open misdemeanor and traffic cases is twice the population of Orleans Parish. I will work with prosecutors and defenders to prioritize disposition of cases that have prescribed or are based on unconstitutional statutes. I will encourage parties to pre-try cases to encourage timely resolution. I will ensure that discovery is timely, trial settings are taken seriously, and that the voices of parties and witnesses are heard. I will stagger subpoena times so that working people do not waste entire days in court, missing paychecks. I will develop community court days in locations such as New Orleans East and Algiers to facilitate access to all.</p>