



**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	Piper D. Griffin
2. Date of Birth	Month: <u>February</u> Year: <u>1962</u>
3. Place of Birth	City: <u>Demopolis</u> State: <u>AL</u>
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)	I graduated from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN in 1984 with a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Government.
6. Legal Education Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	I graduated from the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law School in 1987 with a Juris Doctorate.
7. Date of Admission to Louisiana Bar	Month: <u>October</u> Year: <u>1987</u>
8. Professional Experience Including Nature of Practice and Extent of Civil and/or Criminal Trial Experience	As a Civil District Court judge I handle a general civil law docket including complex litigation, asbestos cases, constitutional law cases and class actions. During my almost 20 years on the bench, I have averaged 5 jury trials per year, tried more than 300 bench trials, and handled thousands of hearings on Rules to Show Cause. Leake & Anderssen, civil trial practice; Judge Pro Tempore in the Civil District Court, general civil law docket; George Nalley & Associates, civil trial practice; Appointed Judge Ad Hoc Juvenile Court, both criminal and child in need of care cases; Carmouche, Gray & Hoffman, civil defense trial practice. My criminal trial experience is limited to my work as a member of the testing committee with the Committee on Bar Admissions reviewing and approving the Criminal Law Exam and as a member of the Louisiana State Law Institute, reviewing and helping to write laws, including laws in the criminal arena.



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<p>9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities</p>	<p>I am a member of the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges, Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana District Judges Association, Louisiana Judicial Council/NBA, 4th & 5th Circuit Judges Association, New Orleans Bar Association and the Greater New Orleans Martinet Legal Society. I also serve a member of the Louisiana State Law Institute Council.</p> <p>I am also admitted in the State of Mississippi.</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>Upholding the law is a foundational principal for all contentious judges. For me, that principal has been at the forefront of my decisions because I strongly believe that a judge is a steward of the law. My work as a trial judge for nearly 20 years has been one of applying the law to the facts and providing the jurors with the applicable law. I am committed and remain cognizant of a judge's duty to avoid arbitrary application of the law such that the law does not lose its intended meaning. This basic tenet is important so that all lawyers and litigants will know and have confidence that the judicial process works. My nearly 20 years of experience as a trial judge has afforded me the opportunity and unique perspective of upholding the law by applying the rule of law and ensuring that it is applied to cases daily.</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>Independence and impartiality is the cornerstone of our judicial system. Judges must remain mindful of ruling on the case in front of them based upon the facts and applicable law of that case rather than any bias or other influence. My reputation is that of being a fair judge who listens to and has the ability to understand the arguments of both sides. In order for the legal process to work and for the rule of law to prevail, people must have confidence that everyone stands equally before the law and that there are no predetermined outcomes.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>An even judicial temperament and good character are prerequisites for all members of the judiciary. The way a judge conducts herself during proceedings has a substantial impact on how litigants and their attorneys perceive the process. In addition, a judge must establish and maintain the dignity and decorum that is befitting our legal system. The inherent qualities, such as having an even temperament and good character, are innate to any effective jurist. I have gained a reputation among my peers and within the legal community as being fair, reasonable, and compassionate. I am proud to have been the recipient of the 2019 NBA Judicial Council Sarah J. Harper Humanitarian award; the Greater N.O. Louis A. Martinet Legal Society 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award; 2003 Ernest N. Morial Judicial Pacesetter Award</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>I believe that the judicial system must be reflective of the community that it serves. This promotes public confidence in the belief that judges possess the ability to consider different views in decision making and that their decision will be grounded in the law and not in a perceived prejudice based upon difference between the judge and the litigant. We are products of our environment. As such, our values, beliefs, & experiences are a part of who we are. Having a diverse judicial system promotes public confidence in the judicial process and reflects inclusion which reflects an awareness to others that society respects differing values and beliefs. This will undoubtedly promote public confidence that individuals will be treated with the respect & dignity they deserve. This is an important & necessary quality for the judicial system to possess.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>The judicial system, which necessarily includes judges, must have the confidence of the public. Absent this confidence, the judiciary is ineffective and not maintaining its constitutional responsibly as the third branch of government. It is imperative that the public understands that judges as administrators of justice, do so fairly, impartially and without compromise. My work teaching both lawyers and judges is grounded in the belief that good judges are those who understand the law and who apply it fairly. The public should always be afforded access to the courts and I have also worked and supported access to the courts through Civil District Court's Self-Help Desk.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>Judges should have the requisite skill, knowledge, and training because of the fundamental service they perform, the day to day task of sitting in judgment. I am proud of my credentials as a jurist and a legal scholar. As a frequent speaker at CLE programs both for judges and lawyers, a former Constitutional Law Bar Examiner who presently serves on the bar exam testing committee and as a member of the Louisiana State Law Institute, I think my capabilities and credentials speak for themselves. I have been recognized as a Judicial Pacesetter as well as recognized by my peers serving as the current 2nd Vice President of the District Judges Association, past president of the Louisiana Judicial Council/NBA, and the 4th and 5th Circuit Judges Association.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>Efficient docket management is at the core of what makes for a good trial judge and I am proud to say that I have a reputation of having a great docket management system in place. The efficiency of my docket has never compromised the quality of my decisions and that principle will remain should I be elected to the Supreme Court. Earlier this year, I received the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) 2020 Thomas Jefferson Justice by the People Award which in part, recognized my efficient court management of jury trials. Docket management on the Supreme Court is certainly different from the trial court. However, I believe my work ethic is an indicator of my ability to manage not only the cases presented to the Court but also the administrative responsibilities that are included with being a member of the highest court in the State. The Supreme Court is presented with thousands of writ applications each year. Justices consider every case, but the cases are also individually allocated to justices for writing. I will be vigilant in timely presenting my opinions to my colleagues on the Court. My work as a member of the Supreme Court's Budgetary Control Committee, its Committee on Bar Admissions and its Committee on Judicial Ethics allow me to be exceptionally prepared to handle not only the caseload of the court but also gives me a head start in the administrative demand.</p>