



**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	Omar Mason
2. Date of Birth	Month: <u>May</u> Year: <u>1974</u>
3. Place of Birth	City: <u>New Orleans</u> State: <u>LA</u>
4. Marital Status	Single <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married Divorced Widowed
5. Undergraduate Education Include name of school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Louisiana State University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, LA August 1992 - May 1996 Major: English Concentration: Creative Writing Bachelor of Arts - May 1996
6. Legal Education Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Loyola University School of Law, New Orleans, LA August 1996 - May 1999 Concentration: Creative Writing Bachelor of Arts - May 1996
7. Date of Admission to Louisiana Bar	Month: <u>October</u> Year: <u>1999</u>
8. Professional Experience Including Nature of Practice and Extent of Civil and/or Criminal Trial Experience	<p>Judge, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Division "E": domestic relations docket</p> <p>Aaron & Gianna, P.L.C. (Shareholder): civil trials; business litigation; toxic tort litigation; motion practice</p> <p>Montgomery Barnett, L.L.P.: business litigation; professional responsibility; civil trials; motion practice</p> <p>Johnson DeLuca Kurisky & Gould, P.C.: commercial litigation; civil trials; motion practice</p> <p>Lynn Luker & Associates, L.L.C.: civil trials; premises liability; toxic tort litigation; motion practice</p> <p>Carter & Cates, APPLC: personal injury (Plaintiff); class actions/complex litigation (Tobacco Plaintiff Trial Team Member, etc.); civil trials; motion practice; successions; real property transactions</p>



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<p>9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities</p>	<p>Louisiana State Bar Association (Former Diversity Facilitator/CLE Presenter); New Orleans Bar Association (CLE Presenter); Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society (CLE Presenter); St. Thomas More Inn of Court (Co-Program Director/ Executive Committee Member); New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (Former Director/Philanthropy [Community Outreach] Committee Chair); State Bar of Texas; Bar of the United States Supreme Court; United States District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana; United States District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas; U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals; Judges of the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans En Banc (Recording Secretary/Disaster Recovery Committee Chair); Louisiana District Judges Association; Louisiana Judicial Council/ National Bar Association</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>As we witness the constant erosion of faith in the integrity of government today, I stand proud and take comfort in the fact that, as Judge, I work tirelessly everyday to help ensure that integrity in the civil justice system is preserved -- one case at a time. That integrity cannot be preserved, unless we elect and re-elect experienced jurists who pledge to uphold the rule of law. I have the experience, competence, dedication and work ethic necessary to continue to serve as Civil District Court Judge. I firmly pledge to continue to always uphold the rule of law. I have demonstrated the legal acumen and judicial temperament needed to listen carefully to both sides of a case and apply the law to the facts on a case-by-case basis, so as to render the best decision possible -- carrying out the underlying intent and spirit of the law.</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>Justice cannot be served, unless the presiding judge is independent and impartial. While collegiality and professionalism are encouraged among legal professionals, a judge must be disciplined and steadfast enough to refrain from allowing a personal or professional relationship (with litigants, counsel and/or witnesses) to interfere with the exercise of his or her independence and impartiality. Just as I pledged that my word was my bond with respect to my clients when I actively practiced law, holding in high regard the principles of the attorney/client privilege, as Judge, I have helped ensure that the integrity of the judicial system is protected and preserved, by maintaining independence and impartiality. I will continue to maintain such independence and impartiality on the bench.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>In my 19 years as a civil attorney before becoming Judge, I earned the respect of my colleagues and clients alike. I had been peer reviewed, earning an AV Preeminent Rating for maintaining high ethical and professional standards. As an attorney, I worked very hard to maintain my reputation as a consummate professional. As Judge, I have worked even harder to earn a reputation as a fair and just jurist. I am sincerely interested in hearing and thoroughly evaluating the respective positions of the parties who appear before me and, prior to taking the bench, I had represented clients on both sides of the aisle (Plaintiffs and Defendants alike) -- allowing me to develop the temperament required of a judge. My judicial temperament and character developed throughout my legal career and life have been invaluable to my service on the bench.</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>Ideally, the makeup of the bench should represent a fair cross-section of the local population. As a former diversity facilitator of the Louisiana State Bar Association, I trained others to help promote diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, and I understand the importance of a racially and otherwise diverse judiciary. As someone who believes in civic education to help eradicate apathy towards the political process, particularly with respect to the election of judges, I believe a judiciary that accurately and adequately reflects the makeup of its constituents helps foster public confidence in the judicial system. Diversity alone, however, is meaningless if the individuals elected do not work to ensure there is inclusion in helping to better the system. Since my election as Judge, I have been a very active voice in en banc, even taking on the task of chairing the Court's Disaster Recovery Committee which has been charged with overseeing the re-opening and continuity of operations of the Court during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public. That is why I believe that public election of judges, though not perfect, is the best method available to seat members of the judiciary. However, more public education regarding the role of judges, the Court (particularly civil court) and the judicial branch of government as a whole is desperately needed, so as to encourage more active participation in the judicial process by the general public, including service on juries and as witnesses. Though, when serving as Duty Judge, I have enjoyed the opportunity to communicate directly to potential jurors the importance of their role in the civil justice system, and encourage them to help dispel the notion that jury service is a nuisance rather than a privilege, it is my vision to continue to develop other opportunities to bring the courtroom experience into the community and educate.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>Prior to my election as Judge, I enjoyed over 19 consecutive years of exclusive civil practice/litigation experience. I was AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell for maintaining high ethical and professional standards and had been recognized as a Super Lawyer in litigation. I have served as an adjunct faculty member of the Trial Advocacy Program and Pre-Trial Civil Litigation Boot Camp of Tulane Law School, as a skills instructor at Loyola College of Law, as a trial advocacy adjunct faculty member for the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and as a skills instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA). I have also served on several governing boards of organizations. My professional and extra-career experience, coupled with my legal acumen, make me uniquely qualified and have been essential to my effective service on the bench.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>The Civil District Court docket is extremely crowded. As Judge, I have diligently taken the steps necessary to help ensure that cases move as efficiently and effectively as possible, while ensuring that each litigant gets a fair and just opportunity to be heard remains of paramount importance. Though every case is consequential, my docket necessarily prioritizes pending cases according to the nature of the issues to be heard, with emergency matters taking precedence over non-emergency matters. I also implement and enforce "realistic" scheduling orders for certain non-emergency matters and take all practical steps necessary to keep those matters on track for trial or other disposition. In managing the domestic docket for the past year and a half, I have presided over hundreds of matters, with over 95% of my decisions rendered from the bench, ensuring that my docket management remains efficient.</p>