



**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	Paul N. Sens
2. Date of Birth	Month: <u>January</u> Year: <u>1956</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)	Tulane University, New Orleans, LA Bachelor of Arts, Political Science with a specialization in Public Administration 1978
6. Legal Education Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Loyola University, School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1981
7. Date of Admission to Louisiana Bar	Month: <u>July</u> Year: <u>1982</u>
8. Professional Experience Including Nature of Practice and Extent of Civil and/or Criminal Trial Experience	Law Office of Paul N. Sens, 1982; Civil Personal Injury and Criminal Defense Orleans Indigent Defender's Office, 1983-1993 assigned to Municipal and Traffic Courts; Elected to Orleans Parish School Board 1988, reelected in 1994, served as President of Board; Assistant Louisiana Attorney General, assigned to the Louisiana State Racing Commission 1993; Appointed Executive Assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs to Mayor Marc Morial, 1994-1996 duties expanded to include supervision of Economic Development and Criminal Justice; Elected Municipal Court Judge, invested 1997, reelected without opposition 2004 & 2012



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<p>9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities</p>	<p>American Judges Association Louisiana City Court Judges Association, Past President 4th and 5th Judges Association, Past President American Bar Association Louisiana State Bar Association New Orleans 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>The oath of office that a judge swears to dictates that a Judge upholds the laws and constitution of the United States and the laws and constitution of the State of Louisiana. A judge may have personal convictions, partisan interests, feelings or attitudes about subjects that are not exactly consistent with existing law but those convictions, interests, feelings or attitudes cannot interfere with a judge's duty and obligation to uphold those laws. Whether you personally agree or not, it is a judge's sacred duty to uphold those laws regardless.</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>During my twenty-three years on the bench it has been my zealous commitment to protect and promote an independent judiciary. It is not always politically expedient to challenge those in other branches of government, that do not understand or may not care about an independent judiciary, but it is so fundamentally important to our concept of separate and equal branches of government that it cannot be sacrificed for political expedience. I have the wounds to prove it but I will continue the good flight. Similarly, impartiality is the cornerstone of our system of justice, particularly criminal justice, and should remain sacred as well.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>The Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3 states that "A judge shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity ..." those words I try to live by everyday that I take the bench. For those members of the New Orleans Bar Association who have not practiced before me, I would encourage them to ask those attorneys who have practiced before me about my judicial temperament and character, and I will rest on their opinions.</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>This is particularly true as it relates to the criminal justice system because so many of the defendants that come before a criminal judge in this jurisdiction are African-Americans. It is imperative that we promote a racially diverse system to break what has been a historically oppressive system. Judges need to check their biases at the door, so that our system is looked upon by all, as a fair and impartial one. I believe my professional and judicial career has been one that has tried to lead by example relative to acceptance of racial and cultural diversity and I will continue to do the same in the future.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>I agree with that statement wholeheartedly but sometimes that confidence is shaken by what is seen by the public and what is sometimes misrepresented by the media. Participating in public judicial awareness programs helps to raise that confidence. The judiciary is usually at a disadvantage because they do not have the public communications resources that are enjoyed by the other branches of government but ultimately leading by example is the best way to earn people's confidence.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>The law sets the minimum qualifications of capabilities and credentials to be a judge but we should never be satisfied with the minimum. I have participated in judicial associations to better myself as a jurist. I have been selected by the Louisiana Supreme Court to participate in the "Training the Trainers" workshop. I have been Past President of the Louisiana City Court Judges Association and the 4th and 5th Circuit Judges Association. I always exceed the required continuing legal education requirements and I have taught CLEs to lawyers and judges.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>I presently preside on the Bench of the Court which yearly has the largest amount of criminal filings in the State of Louisiana. Our bench as a whole has an average of less than 60 days from institution to resolution, excepting warrants for non-appearance. I happen to have the least time to resolution. Part of that efficiency is hard work and a great staff. Part of it is holding prosecutors and defense attorneys accountable. I allow continuances for cause and then only one to each side. I try cases as they come. I start at 8 a.m. and work until my docket is finished.</p>