



**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	Jerome G. "Jerry" Smith, III
2. Date of Birth	Month: <u>November</u> Year: <u>1973</u>
3. Place of Birth	City: <u>New Orleans</u> State: <u>LA</u>
4. Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed
5. Undergraduate Education  Include name of school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Bachelor of Business Administration University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS 1996
6. Legal Education  Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Juris Doctorate Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center 2000
7. Date of Admission to Louisiana Bar	Month: <u>October</u> Year: <u>2001</u>
8. Professional Experience Including Nature of Practice and Extent of Civil and/or Criminal Trial Experience	Assistant District Attorney for 13 years in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany Tried approximately 80 criminal jury trials Solo law practice for 7 years



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<p>9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities</p>	<p>Louisiana State Bar Association</p> <p>Admitted to: United States District Court, Eastern District of LA</p> <p>United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal</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 role of a judge is to apply laws as written. A judge does not have the authority to expand the scope or reach of any laws. The judge also does not have the authority to disregard laws or neglect to enforce them. I believe strongly in judicial conservatism and that judges should not legislate from the bench.</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>Judges should treat all litigants before the court equally, without favoritism based on who the litigant is, who the litigant hires as counsel, or with whom the judge is politically aligned.</p> <p>If a judge is largely promoted by elected officials, it may have a tendency to pressure the judge to rule in a particular way. A judge should not be swayed by those political forces. I am not beholden to any political official.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>Judges should approach proceedings without passion or emotion, basing rulings only on the evidence and the law. A judge should not berate, belittle or embarrass parties or attorneys before the court.</p> <p>I am not one to raise my voice or get rattled easily. Some of my judicial role models also possess this trait, such as Henry Sullivan, Michael Mentz, Stephen Grefer, and many other fine judges we have, past and present, in Jefferson Parish.</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>I am not quite sure how the "judicial system" can be "racially diverse". That being said, a judge should treat everyone before the court equally, regardless of ethnicity, religion, demographics, etc.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>It is important that the public know that the judiciary is independent and free from extra-judicial influence, whether from political favors owed, or favoritism towards certain attorneys. All parties and attorneys need to have full confidence that they will be treated the same as all others. Confidence in the system is diminished when the public knows that in order to get a good result from a particular judge, a litigant should hire a particular attorney. I pledge to treat all who come before the court equally and fairly.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>It is important that judges have a strong grasp of the rules of evidence and procedure. There is time to research and contemplate certain issues before the court, but rules of evidence and procedure are often needed in real time to make correct rulings. In addition to my active courtroom presence over the past two decades, most of which was spent as an Assistant District Attorney, I have volunteered as an adjunct professor in Tulane Law School's Trial Advocacy Program for the past seven years where we teach trial procedure, courtroom etiquette and evidence to law students.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>I plan on incorporating technology into case management. If there is a hearing scheduled in which all parties know nothing of substance will occur, time is wasted having attorneys sit in court and wait their turn, just to pick a new date. I will, with consent of the parties, try to incorporate remote appearances to increase efficiency. I will be available to assist in discovery matters and give timely trial dates when requested.</p>