



**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	Laurie A. White
2. Date of Birth	Month: <u>November</u> Year: <u>1958</u>
3. Place of Birth	City: <u>West Memphis</u> State: <u>AR</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, Baton Rouge, LA Bachelor of Criminal Justice, May 1981
6. Legal Education  Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana Jurist Doctor, May 1986 12.5 hours per year but with my judicial courses, teaching trial strategy, other CLE courses, and as invited speaker, I have earned 845 hours of MCLE credit since 2006.
7. Date of Admission to Louisiana Bar	Month: <u>March</u> Year: <u>1987</u>
8. Professional Experience Including Nature of Practice and Extent of Civil and/or Criminal Trial Experience	Criminal - Orleans Parish Criminal Court Bench since 2007 since elected I have presided over 173 jury trials and 96 judge trials, Chief Judge 2016 – 2017; Private legal practice: handled all aspects of criminal law (1992 – 2007); East Baton Rouge District Attorney’s Office (1991-1992); Orleans Parish District Attorney’s Office (1987-1989).  Civil- New Orleans City Attorney’s Office (1990 - 1993; 2001); civil practice represented Aetna Insurance Company as defense counsel (1989 -1991.) As a lawyer, I was lead counsel in over 100 jury trials. I have filed, argued, and briefed more than 75 cited cases to the Louisiana Appellate Courts and Louisiana Supreme Court.



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<p>9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities</p>	<p>Louisiana State Bar Association, 1987          Texas Bar Association, 2007          U.S. Supreme Court, 2002          U.S. Court of Appeal, 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 1992          U.S. District Courts, Western, 1990; Middle and Eastern, 1989          National Association of Women Judges          Louisiana Sentencing Commission, Gubernatorial Appointed Chair          Gubernatorial Appointment LA Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice          Thomas More Loyola Law School, American Inn of Court, Since 2012, Past President          New Orleans Bar Association          National Board of Trial Advocacy, certified criminal law specialist (via National Testing 2004)          Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, Past President, Life Time member</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>Yes. A judge should be an experienced lawyer in both courtroom procedures from having done legal work in court and she should be knowledgeable of the law and involved in continuing study. Every judge is faced with following the rule of law, which may be publicly unpopular, but a judge must have the courage to follow and apply the rule of law.</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>A judge's most valued asset is the ability to set aside their personal emotions of what the law should be, and apply the law as it is written. A judge must be experienced enough and personally mature enough to not be swayed by the fear of scrutiny and public pressure, or the rule of law is trampled and people will lose their trust in the courts. A judge must be an expert in the law so that the public has confidence in their decisions. I have always ruled with impartiality and independence, and for that I am proud.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>The way a judge behaves in court and the character they display should reflect equal treatment, respect of all persons, courage in the face of difficult decisions. An appropriate temperament in court is fundamental to a citizen's trust and faith that a judge will decide a case fairly, impartially, and without prejudice or bias. Litigants on each side should be satisfied that they have been treated properly no matter what the final ruling by the judge may be. A judge shall also be firm in court when litigants or attorneys are uncivil or disrespectful and it is the judge's duty to maintain proper court decorum.</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>Absolutely, the judicial system must draw from the widest pool of talent, which includes people from different viewpoints and communities, as these are the people who can make necessary changes for the betterment of our larger society. My experience as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, civil litigator and judge, has given me the privilege of interacting with people different from me and allow a free flow of ideas and different viewpoints. The Criminal Court bench should be reflective of the community we live in, and this diversity should provide comfort for those coming through court. My partnership with retired Judge Author Hunter in forming the Re-Entry Court is demonstrative of how a diverse judiciary can work together for the betterment of the criminal justice system. We brought rehabilitation into prison terms.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>Yes. This is a necessity. I think courts should be more accessible to the general public, so that proceedings can be seen and heard. A more informed public makes a smarter involved constituency and public. CourtWatch has a daily presence at our Criminal Court and they should be in every court to impress upon the judges and staff the various issues that we should be mindful of in our role to the community.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>My experience as an attorney handling civil plaintiff and defense trial matters gave me great experience in the civil realm. I was a senior prosecutor in two parish offices and thereafter a criminal defense attorney handling high profile matters. I have been lead trial counsel in all types of felony jury cases, including both sides of death penalty cases, which went to verdict. Not many people can say they have been to trial on both prosecution and defense sides of death penalty litigation. I have prepared and gained maximum experience, which is needed to be a Judge. As a lawyer, I had more than 75 legal cases cited at the Louisiana Appellate Courts and LA Supreme Court, which I briefed, argued, and handled.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>I have served on the Criminal Court bench for 13 years and took over the Section A docket when it had more than 400 open pending felony cases. Now the Section A docket has less than 65 open felony cases. Section A has been one of the lowest dockets of the 13 Judges for more than 2 years. My efficiency in handling matters has been the reason the docket numbers dropped so dramatically. While still providing full and fair consideration of each matter, I stopped allowing the trials to be continued multiple times by changing my court procedure and implementing rules which required more accountability of all lawyers in my court. In negotiating pleas and receiving discovery and preparing for trial or continuing a case, well in advance of the date set, it has improved efficiency hundred-fold. I have built in time for the matters to be discussed with the court on any plea offers and with additional court settings for in-court discussions of discovery issues or anticipated trial problems. This change in procedure does not waste everyone's time, therefore, persons charged with crimes and the victims and witnesses involved, have their day in court quicker and with less frustration by all parties. Great reasons to keep me in Section A!</p>