



**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	DeWayne L. Williams
2. Date of Birth	Month: <u>October</u> Year: <u>1975</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)	Louisiana State University Bachelor of Science in General Business Administration Graduation Year - 1998
6. Legal Education  Include name of law school, degree(s) and graduation year(s)	Loyola University School of Law Juris Doctorate Graduation Year - 2001
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	I am a practicing attorney with over 19 years of experience, and a shareholder and member of the Board of Directors of Aaron & Gianna, PLC. I am the coordinator of the firm's Complex Litigation and Appellate practices, and have served as counsel in complex and high profile trials, appeals, and writs before a variety of state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. My practice areas include business and commercial litigation; appellate advocacy; government and regulatory affairs; professional liability; general business; education; labor, employment and civil rights; legal and medical malpractice; and divorce, custody, and support issues. The Louisiana Supreme Court appointed me as the Constitutional Law Bar Examiner (2012-17) and as a Hearing Committee Chairman for the LADB (2011-16).



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<p>9. Bar Associations, Court Admissions, Professional Organizations and Legal Fraternities</p>	<p>Louisiana State Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, American Bar Association, National Bar Association / United States Supreme Court, State Bar of Louisiana, United States Court of Appeals - Fifth Circuit, USDC - EDLA, USDC - MDLA, USDC - WDLA, United States Bankruptcy Court / New Orleans Chamber of Commerce - Board Member, Louis A. Martinet Legal Society - Member, LSU Alumni Association - Member, McDonogh 35 Alumni Association - Member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated - Member Save Our Cemeteries - Member, Each One Save One - Approved Mentor, Son of a Saint - Approved Mentor, World Vision Chosen - Sponsor, Seabrook Neighborhood Association - Member, Infinite Blessings, LLC (Non-Profit) - Co-Founder, Vice President</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 beauty of our judicial system is that, at its core, its function and purpose is to seek justice and uphold the rule of law. While every player in the judicial system; from the jurors, to the attorneys, and even the litigants themselves – play a role in achieving the ultimate goal of justice, the most influential player is the judge. The judge is the gatekeeper, and therefore the custodian of justice and the protector of the rule of law. The ABA describes the rule of law as “a set of principles, or ideals, for ensuring an orderly and just society.” In other words, without the rule of law, society fails. Having represented individuals where the rule of law, as it relates to race and sex discrimination, was not upheld by employers, I fully recognize and appreciate the role of the judge to be the protector of the rule of law. My entire legal career has been about seeking justice and ensuring that the rule of law is upheld, and that certainly will be my directive as a judge.</p>
<p>14. Judges should be independent and impartial.</p>	<p>Without an independent and impartial judiciary, the public will have little confidence that their cases will be decided fairly. If public confidence erodes, the public may seek justice through other less civilized means. I realize that as a judge my role is to seek justice and uphold the rule of law for all people. As a judge, I will be a judge for everyone. From those who bless me with their vote, to those who cast their ballot for another – all have the right to and will receive fair and impartial justice in my courtroom. My experiences, as well as my faith, have resulted in the principle of fair, independent, and impartial justice being ingrained into my mentality. I have unfortunately been in courtrooms where one could easily perceive the lack of impartiality of the jurist. While no one spoke a word of it, the climate in the room was one of awkwardness and uneasiness. The failure of any judge to uphold independence and impartiality is a derogation of the oath to uphold the Constitution. I pledge to always deliver independent, and impartial justice.</p>
<p>15. Judges should possess the appropriate judicial temperament and character.</p>	<p>Judges are human, but to whom much is given much is required. I have seen attorneys and jurors glean as many “clues” as they can from the judge's temperament and actions, even if the judge has no intention of conveying such sentiments. Additionally, a judge must be of the highest character to ensure public confidence in the judicial system. My experience as a Hearing Committee Chairman for the LADB and the Constitutional Law Bar Examiner has displayed that I have the necessary temperament and character. As Hearing Committee Chairman, I presided over cases dealing with whether attorneys would actually lose their license. With their livelihood on the line, attorneys sometimes became emotional, and it was my role to preside over these hearings and make sure justice was served. Additionally, the Louisiana Supreme Court trusted my character enough to appoint me as the Constitutional Law Bar Examiner, which gave me the ability to affect an applicant's chances to be admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana.</p>
<p>16. The judicial system should be racially diverse and reflective of the society it serves.</p>	<p>Racial and gender diversity in the judicial system are crucial to its effectiveness. Citizens have a right to a trusted and fair judicial system. To ensure that goal, the system must mirror the society it serves. When the judicial system does not reflect society as a whole the citizens' confidence in that system can begin to erode. As an attorney, I have fought for the rights of minorities and women in the judicial system and beyond when no one else would take their cases. I was successful in helping a black male be properly compensated for being improperly terminated. I was also successful in helping a white female get a proper promotion that she was looked over for simply because of her gender. My record on equality reflects my view that I believe racial and gender diversity are crucial to an effective judiciary. In order to make this judicial system work as it was intended, we must work together to ensure a broad spectrum of inclusion and equality across all races, genders, and sexual orientations.</p>



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<p>17. Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.</p>	<p>Public confidence in judges and the judiciary is vital to the success of the legal system. I believe that my election to the judiciary would increase public confidence. Not only do I have 19 years of real professional experience in the trial court, but I've also been entrusted by the Louisiana Supreme Court to be the Constitutional Law Bar Examiner, and a Hearing Committee Chairman for the LADB. I don't come from a prestigious family, nor am I a part of any big political organization. I am the first person in my family to graduate from college. I am simply someone who put in hard work and trusted his faith to earn what I have achieved so far. I also give back to the community with my own personal non-profit corporation that sponsored multiple events throughout the city with our own resources.</p>
<p>18. Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.</p>	<p>At its core, our judicial system is tasked with seeking justice. The most influential player in the system is arguably the judge. The judge must make sure justice is handed out in a non-partisan fair manner. However, to do so the judge must possess the appropriate capabilities, credentials, and experience. I believe my experience shows I am well prepared to perform the gatekeeper role. My 19 years of experience has been either practicing or clerking in the trial court. I have represented plaintiffs and defendants in multiple types of disputes, ranging from car accidents to multi-million dollar partnership dissolutions. I have practiced in both state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. I have also acted in the role as a judge as a Hearing Committee Chairman with the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board.</p>
<p>19. Please comment on how you plan to manage your docket from an efficiency standpoint.</p>	<p>As a practicing attorney, I know one of the most frustrating aspects of litigation is how long the process takes. I believe there are many ways that the judge can increase the efficiency of the docket. First, the judge must have a great work ethic. I believe my work ethic will allow me to do what it takes to run an efficient docket. I will always be prepared and will work until the job is done. Second, I will surround myself with like-minded people with similar work ethics. From my experience, running an efficient docket and division takes everyone, not just the judge. Finally, I will put into place certain procedures to expedite the process, such as same day judgments and waiver of oral arguments. Having practiced in federal court, I know of multiple techniques and procedures that can be utilized in our state court system to increase the efficiency.</p>