

WHERE DO JUDGES COME FROM?

Confidential Self-Assessment

1. List three reasons why you want to be a judge.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. Are you motivated by financial concerns?

Very much Somewhat Very little Not at all

3. Are you motivated by a desire to deal no longer with the unpleasant aspects of practicing law?

Very much Somewhat Very little Not at all

4. If you no longer want to practice law, what other career paths have you considered?

5. Have any colleagues or judges said that you would be a good judge?

Yes No

6. List five traits that you believe would make you a good judge:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

7. What most appeals to you about being a judge?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

8. Do you know the legal eligibility requirements for a judicial appointment?
Yes No
9. If so, do you meet them?
Yes No
10. How have you demonstrated an interest in public service?

11. With whom or what organizations do you network that might support your candidacy?

12. How well known are you in the legal community?
Very well Somewhat Very little Not at all
13. Do you believe you are well respected in your legal community?
Yes No
14. How active are you in local or state bar activities?
Very well Somewhat active Very little Not at all
15. Have you ever asked a judge to critique your performance in court?
Yes No
16. If so, what was the nature of the feedback you received?

17. Have you served as a temporary judge?
Yes No
18. Have you served as a volunteer mediator?
Yes No
19. How do you *honestly* rate your reputation as a lawyer?
Excellent ___ Very good ___ Average ___ Good enough ___
20. Is being a zealous advocate for your client/cause your favorite part of being a lawyer?
Yes No

21. If not, what aspect of being a lawyer do you enjoy most?

22. What concerns do you have, if any, about access to justice for *all* persons (especially those who are economically challenged, those who lack English proficiency, those with disabilities, or other underrepresented groups that traditionally have faced obstacles to their access to justice)? [If you have no concerns, skip this question and the next question].

23. As a lawyer, what have you done to address any of these concerns?

24. Do you have a judicial philosophy? Yes No

25. If so, what is it? _____

26. What have you done personally or in your work that is unique, special or particularly valuable to your community or to the legal system?

27. What life experiences, skills or knowledge would you bring to the bench that is unique, special or particularly valuable to the judicial system?

28. Do you have strong academic credentials? Yes No

29. How do you rate your writing skills?

Excellent ___ Very good ___ Average ___ Weak ___

30. How do you rate your analytical skills?

Excellent ___ Very good ___ Average ___ Weak ___

31. Do your colleagues and opposing counsel consider you to be a person who is easy to work with?
 Yes No
32. In your role as advocate, does your interaction with other parties tend to be contentious?
 Yes No
33. Have you taught courses (e.g., law school, MCLE)? Yes No
34. Have you written articles on issues of importance to the legal profession or the judicial branch?
 Yes No
35. List leadership positions have you held:
 a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
 d. _____
36. Are there judicial assignments that you would find distasteful or unpleasant (e.g., traffic court; small claims; criminal arraignment calendar; family law; etc.)? If so, please list them. _____, _____, _____
37. How well-balanced is your life?
 Very Moderately balanced Slightly balanced Not at all
38. Is your family life stable? Yes No
39. Is there anything about you that might be harmful to your personal or legal reputation if it became public?
 Yes No
40. To what extent do you understand what judges do?
 Complete knowledge Some knowledge No knowledge
41. Do you believe you can cope with the emotional challenges of certain assignments (e.g., family law, juvenile dependency)? Yes No Maybe
42. Have you been the subject of disciplinary action? Yes No

43. Have you been fired from a job for malfeasance or inability to do the work?

Yes No

44. Do you understand there are ethical limitations on your speech and conduct if you become a judge, and are you willing to accept them?

Yes No