



How to Judge Judges

What is the role of judges?

- Judges are part of the judicial branch of government, tasked with interpreting and applying the law.
- Judges evaluate cases presented to them based on evidence, case law, and statutory law, relying on their personal knowledge, experience, and expertise.
- Judges should be fair and impartial in evaluating the law.

How are judges selected in Louisiana?

- Selection of state court judges in Louisiana occurs through partisan elections.
- Judicial candidates must meet qualifications, such as having a license to practice law for a certain amount of time, being a resident of the district they are running in, and being below the age of 70.
- The Louisiana Supreme Court and Louisiana Court of Appeals have 10-year terms, and District Courts have 6-year terms.

How can judicial candidates be evaluated?

- Review bios of judicial candidates, and evaluate their experience in the field of law they would be working in as a judge.
- Consult multiple sources.
- Talk to other members of your community who may know the judge or have served on a jury in his court.
- Evaluate the candidate's community service work.
- Examine the candidate's disciplinary record as an attorney or judge.
- Review the candidate's endorsements.
 - Endorsements from neutral associations, such as newspapers and local or state bar associations
 - Bar associations often send detailed Q&As to candidates, interview candidates, and poll bar members. These can be found on each bar association's website.
 - Newspapers tend to focus more on qualifications, while bar associations tend to focus more on ideology and judicial philosophy.
 - Issue oriented sources, such as political associations and labor groups
- Examine the candidate's campaign funding sources.
 - You can research a candidate's campaign funding using online sources such as the Nola.com campaign finance contribution database. This allows you to search for candidates and see who has donated to their campaign and how much they donated.