

King County Democrats 2008 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Suzanne Parisien
Position sought	King County Superior Court Position # 1
Residence LD	41st
Are you the incumbent?	No
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Committee to Elect Suzanne Parisien
Web page	www.sueforjudge.com
Campaign Email address	info@sueforjudge.com
Manager	Julie Salle
Campaign mailing address	P.O. Box 685 Mercer Island, WA 98040
Campaign phone number	206-261-0928
Campaign FAX	

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
Which undergraduate and law schools have you attended? Include Graduation date, degrees.
I graduated from Seattle University in 1987 with a BA in Psychology. I graduated from Villanova University School of Law in 1990 with a <i>Juris Doctor</i> .

Hours and types of pro bono work performed.
I have performed hundreds of hours of pro bono service during my career. In 1995 I received the Craig Perry Award for community service for my work in both a legal and non-legal capacity with a wide variety of groups. I have been a court appointed <i>guardian ad litem</i> for children in the foster care system; a volunteer attorney for the indigent through VIP (Volunteers for the Indigent Program). Currently, I provide legal representation for victims of domestic violence as a member of the KCBA Domestic Violence Protection Order Revision Squad. I am also extremely active in my community in non-legal capacities as well.

Have you ever been a prosecutor for any government entity? If yes, where and how long?
No.

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Have you ever defended a person accused of a crime? If yes, where and how many cases?

No.

Have you ever served as an arbitrator or Mediator? If yes, where and how many times?

Yes, I have served as a mediator on approximately 75 occasions.

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How many times have you participated as a judge or attorney in:	
Municipal Court	
District Court	
Superior Court jury trials	11
Arguments in Court of Appeals	3
Arguments in State Supreme Court	
Federal District Court trials	3

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Municipal League	Not yet scheduled.
King County Bar Association	Qualified
Washington Women Lawyers	Interview is currently in process of being scheduled. I have a prior rating of Qualified which will expire at the end of May, 2008.
Loren Miller Bar Association	Well Qualified
QLAW: the GLBT Bar Association	Unqualified
Latina/Latino Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee	Interview is currently in process of being scheduled

Which organizations and individuals have endorsed you in this race?
See preliminary list of endorsements attached hereto.

Which judicial candidates have you endorsed in the past five years?
N/A

Have there ever been any successful claims made against you or your malpractice

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carrier? If "yes" please attach explanation.

No.

List any complaints you have received through any Bar Association, Judicial Conduct Committee or Board, or private insurance carrier. (Attach on a separate sheet of paper.)

None.

What is your strongest area of legal expertise?

Discrimination and Civil Rights.

What recommendations do you have for improving court system funding and administration?

The funding of our state trial court system presents serious problems on many levels. Currently, the State only funds about 10–11% of the costs of our trial court system. This is among the lowest contribution rate of all the States. Our trial courts have had to rely on filing fees and other administrative fees to fund the courts. This is inadequate. By necessity, any solution will probably involve a re-structuring of the tax structure. It is imperative that the state pay a higher portion of the costs of the state justice system as the chronic underfunding negatively impacts both the criminal and civil justice system.

What actions have you taken in the last five years on issues regarding access to the judicial system?

I am an active member of the King County Bar Association's Domestic Violence Protection Order Revision Squad. As part of the squad, I provide *pro bono* representation to victims

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of domestic violence who have had their protection orders denied.

What recommendations do you have for increasing access to the judicial system (Civil and Criminal)?

Increasing access to the judicial system will be difficult until the current under-funding of our court system is improved. That said, there are things that can be done that don't require money. I support the use of Legal Technicians. This could greatly improve access to the judicial system. I also support making some amount of *pro bono* service a requirement for all attorneys, similar to mandatory CLE reporting.

If a sitting Judge, what committees have you been appointed to and what are the significant accomplishments of those committees or yourself? If not, which committee assignments would you seek?

N/A

Have you reviewed the General Rule Definition of the Practice of Law, and the Practice of Law Board's Work? - Do you have comments or ideas? Would you be in favor of the proposed Legal Technician Rule? This rule allows trained, tested and licensed non-lawyers to provide specifically defined legal services without supervision by a lawyer. Please explain.

Yes, provided that the areas within which they work are narrowly defined. If approved, Legal Technicians could contribute toward the goal of increasing access to the courts for many who can not afford lawyers. This model of having technicians perform more basic skills is common in the medical profession and I see no reason why it can't be successful in the legal profession.

Have you been appointed as a guardian or Guardian Ad Litem? If "yes", please give the details?

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I served as a volunteer court appointed GAL through the Support Center for Child Advocates in Philadelphia, PA. I represented two siblings in foster care (living apart) for three years.

How have you promoted diversity within your staff?

My campaign staff is extremely small (2) but my supporters and endorsers are extremely diverse.

What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

Judges need a robust and diverse knowledge of the law and vast real life experience. From the courtroom to the community, I have experience that makes me uniquely qualified to be a Superior Court Judge.

The campaign plan is to go wherever I can, speak when given an audience and let my experience, reputation for hard work, and endorsements speak for themselves. We have budgeted for direct mail. The fundraising goal is \$125,000.00. The campaign was funded initially with \$18,000 and we are just beginning to fundraise.

I will win because of the depth and breadth of my experience, my commitment to community service and the energy and enthusiasm that I will bring to the campaign.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.

Printed Name	Suzanne Parisien	Date
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Signature		May 4, 2008
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