

# King County Democrats 2010 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Richard B. Sanders
Position sought	Washington State Supreme Court Justice, Position 6
Residence LD	34 <sup>th</sup> LD
Are you the incumbent?	Yes
<b>Campaign Information</b>	
Campaign Name	Friends of Justice Sanders
Web page	www.friendsofjustice.com
Campaign Email address	justicesanders@gmail.com
Manager	Stan Shore
Campaign mailing address	Post Office Box 2241 Olympia, Washington 98507
Campaign phone number	206.337.2329
Campaign FAX	206.337.2229

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
Which undergraduate and law schools have you attended? Include Graduation date, degrees.
University of Washington, B.S. 1966; J.D. 1969

Hours and types of pro bono work performed.
Not permitted for a sitting judge

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

Have you ever defended a person accused of a crime? If yes, where and how many cases?
Yes, between 1969 and 1995. Approximately 50 cases.

Have you ever served as an arbitrator or Mediator? If yes, where and how many times?
Yes, between 1969 and 1995. Approximately 20 cases.

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How many times have you participated as a judge or attorney in:	
Municipal Court	Approximately 20
District Court	Approximately 50
Superior Court jury trials	Approximately 100
Arguments in Court of Appeals	Approximately 60
Arguments in State Supreme Court	Approximately 25
Federal District Court trials	Approximately 10

What ratings and endorsements have you received? (None, yet this year)	
Municipal League	
King County Bar Association	
Washington Women Lawyers	
Loren Miller Bar Association	
QLAW: the GLBT Bar Association	
Latina/Latino Bar Association	
Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee	

Which organizations and individuals have endorsed you in this race?  
 Hundreds of individuals including Phil Talmadge, Lem Howell, many of the leading trial attorneys including Keith Kessler, husband of Lynn Kessler)

Which judicial candidates have you endorsed in the past five years?  
 My colleagues on the court, plus several others for which I cannot recall all the names.

Have there ever been any successful claims made against you or your malpractice carrier? If "yes" please attach explanation.  
 Yes; when I was a young attorney I neglected to inform my client that her maintenance would terminate upon her re-marriage.  
  
 This was my fault and I asked my Errors and Omissions insurance to make things right for her, which it did.

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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.)

I have never been disciplined by the bar but there were a few non-meritorious complaints which were dismissed. The CJC reprimanded me for thanking my supporters after my 1995 election at the "March for Live" event; however, with the help of the ACLE, a unanimous Supreme Court reversed and dismissed all charges against me. In 2005, the CJC voted 7-4 to admonish me for the "appearance of impropriety" when I made a prison tour for which I received Continuing Judicial Education credit. The CJC unanimously found I had engaged in no substantive violation of the rules and that I had no improper ex parte contact with anyone.

What is your strongest area of legal expertise?

Protection of individual rights since I came to court. When in private practice I was a trial lawyer and did quite a bit of land use litigation.

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

I have proposed a rule that require judges to only appoint lawyers for indigent criminal defendants who meet qualification standards set by the Bar Association.

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

From the court, I have encouraged public funding of civil legal services, attended conferences and meetings, and testified before the Legislature.

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

Appropriate more money and don't balance the budget on the backs of those who try to access the judicial system.

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?

I have always been on the rules committees and in the past have served on the budget, library and education committee. I have just been appointed to the administration committee. My most significant accomplishment will be enactment of a rule requiring judges to only appoint lawyers for indigent criminal defendants who meet WSBA minimum standards of experience, caseload, compensation, etc. I hope this rule will be adopted in the near future.

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, at this point, I am in favor of the rule but I will keep an open mind.

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

Many times in private practice, I was appointed a Guardian Ad Litem for the alleged mentally ill.

How have you promoted diversity within your staff?

I hire the most qualified people. My Administrative Assistant happens to be an American of Japanese ancestry. She is the best AA in the Temple of Justice.

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?

My main message is that I have done my job “to protect and maintain individual rights” very well. In fact, better than anyone else on the court. I am proud of my support across the political spectrum, from those who consider themselves very liberal and those who view themselves as conservative. Protecting our individual rights can appeal to both the ACLU and to the Tea Party...as well as everyone in the middle. That is the message of my campaign.

You can find out more at [www.friendsofjustice.com](http://www.friendsofjustice.com).

I have a professional campaign consultant and thousands of pieces of mail so far and expect to send out thousands more to raise money and let the voters know about my record. We will also use radio. We hope to raise \$300,000 in modest donations; we have raised about \$70,000 to date.

I have won my last two races with over 63% of the vote. I expect to win again but fear my opponent will use his personal wealth in an effort to overwhelm my campaign with negative ads. I am proud of my record on the court and many people who follow my judicial career are passionate supporters.

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

Printed Name	Richard B. Sanders	Date: 5/10/2010
Signature	Original signed by Richard B. Sanders	