



The Municipal League of King County
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2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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The Municipal League of King County requests every candidate who participates in the candidate evaluation process to **submit background information prior to his/her interview with a candidate evaluation committee**. The questionnaire is the basis of the League's research and interview process. The League's ratings are non-partisan; they are based on standards of Involvement, Effectiveness, Character, and Knowledge, all of which have been developed and refined over the past 90 years.

A printed version of the questionnaire is available for candidates who prefer to use the traditional format. To obtain a hard copy, please contact the League office. A copy of this questionnaire will be provided to Candidate Evaluation Committee members to help them prepare for your interview. Candidate responses, except the confidential section, will be available to the general public at the League website.

The Municipal League requests the following materials from candidates. Please check to make certain you have sent in your:

- Candidate Questionnaire**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Resume (education, employment, and professional activities)**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
 Check here if you DO NOT want your resume posted on the Municipal League website
- Campaign Materials**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Constituent Newsletters and other publications**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Photograph**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending

Note: Electronically submitted questionnaires are strongly preferred. All materials can be emailed to cec@munileague.org. They can be processed and made available on-line far more rapidly than handwritten or typed submissions.

For non-electronic submissions, please print clearly and legibly and return the application **as soon as possible in order to allow the committee the greatest amount of time to prepare a complete report on your skills and experience.**

**We request that you return the Candidate Questionnaire
by June 1, 2008**

If you have not yet been contacted to schedule an interview, or if you have questions about the candidate evaluation program, please contact the League office at 206-264-1070.

If you have a disability and require accommodation to participate in the candidate evaluation process, please contact the CEC Coordinator at the League office.

2008 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Regina	S.	Cahan

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

King County Superior Court — Position 10

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No (open seat)

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

I have lived in the Seattle area for 19 years.

5. How long have you resided in King County?

19 years

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan? Partisan Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Cahan for Court

Address: P.O. Box 9100

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98109

Campaign Phone: 206.898.9841

Campaign Fax: 425.572.0854 (call first)

Campaign E-mail: Regina@Cahanforcourt.com

Campaign Website: www.CahanforCourt.com

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office	Appointed	1989-present	Promoted to Senior, Dep. Pros. Atty.; Chaired hiring committee in criminal division; Selected to lead diversity training for entire office; Selected to be founding member of MDOP-homicide response team.
Seattle Women's Commission	Appointed	1996-1998	

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	

SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
 - **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
 - **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
 - **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?
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1. In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

I am seeking a position as a King County Superior Court judge because it is a role that will allow me to best use all of my experience and training. I am personally well suited for a judicial position and will enjoy the variety, challenges, and decision-making. I also look forward to working regularly in the courtroom, an environment where I am very much at home.

I have the broad experience and training necessary to be an effective, fair and impartial jurist. King County Superior Court judges handle both criminal and civil cases. I have practiced both criminal and civil law and have worked for both sides, in a career spanning over 20 years. In the criminal arena, I represented defendants and prisoners while in law school, and also worked with crime victims. While earning a Master's in Social Work, I provided group therapy for incest survivors, and individual therapy for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors. As an attorney, I later specialized in the prosecution of sex crimes, domestic violence and homicides in the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. In the civil arena, I first represented plaintiffs at a boutique civil rights firm and subsequently represented management for King County on labor and employment issues. I have also had the honor of serving as a Judge Pro Tem for King County District Court and Lake Forest Municipal Court. These broad experiences have given me a balanced perspective that will be an invaluable foundation for making fair and impartial decisions.

A judicial position will allow me to continue public service in a role that suits my strengths: solid judgment, common sense, strong ethics, compassion, the ability to treat all parties with respect, and a very strong work ethic. My broad experiences have exposed me to both sides of many issues, and fostered greater compassion for people in need and distress. A judge must have the ability to listen compassionately and simultaneously hold individuals accountable for their actions. I am hard working and efficient, and will be an effective trial judge.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

Many personal traits cannot be taught and only emerge through experience. By evaluating and then litigating hundreds of cases, I have learned that my judgment is a true personal strength. My demeanor is also calm and respectful – invaluable traits for a trial judge. I innately treat people with respect and listen carefully and patiently to their perspectives. Listening is obviously a vital aspect of a judge's role. Parties often appear in court during their most unfortunate times and a judge needs patience. Further, I naturally make decisions without unnecessary hesitation. Unfortunately, many judges whom I have appeared before have difficulty and sometimes delay decision-making. As a judge, I will review all briefing and testimony thoroughly, and then use my common sense and good judgment to expeditiously make all necessary decisions.

I possess strong personal ethics. I am bright, hard working, and very enthusiastic about legal practice. Attorneys and parties often devote tremendous time and effort to cases in Superior Court. They deserve to appear before a judge who is equally dedicated. If elected, I will work extremely hard to be the best judge possible so that all parties are treated fairly.

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

1. DNA Admissibility

I am very proud of having been in the forefront of advancing the legal acceptance of DNA evidence in Washington. Although it is difficult to imagine now, 12 years ago DNA evidence was not commonly admitted in Washington courts. Through a trilogy of cases, the Washington Supreme Court found that DNA evidence processed by the RFLP (restricted fragment length polymorphism) method and the statistics derived by the ceiling principle were reliable and could be admitted. I conducted two of the earliest pre-trial hearings, subsequent trials and argued before the State Supreme Court. State v. Copeland, 130 Wn.2d 244 (1996) and State v. Jones, 130 Wn.2d 302 (1996). This experience illustrates my intelligence, strong work ethic, and perseverance.

2. State v. Robert Lee Parker King County Superior Court- 96-1-07511-2

I successfully tried a two-count capital murder trial of a serial killer. Robert Parker preyed on single females living alone. He raped and sexually tortured his victims using bindings and gags. Parker committed brutal killings, stabbing his victims repeatedly. Before leaving the scenes, he stole the victims' property and then attempted to destroy all the evidence by starting multiple fires. The first of these murders was the first homicide scene that I responded to as part of my assignment to the MDOP unit. One month later, Parker killed again, leaving a scene hauntingly similar to the first. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of two counts of Aggravated Murder in the First degree and a sentence of life in prison. This was a complicated and long circumstantial case. It illustrates my strong work ethic and commitment.

3. Parenthood

Although I could list other professional accomplishments, I am immensely proud of my family. My husband and I are raising two wonderful children. Observing them grow and discover their own strengths is remarkable. Handling the balance of parenthood and a dual career family is a constant challenge. I am very proud of how we are succeeding at it.

4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

Judge Pro Tem, Serve as Judge pro tem in Seattle District Court and Lake Forest Municipal Court, 2007-present.

King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Criminal Division (1989-1999): Led Diversity training office-wide (1992-1993); Member and later Chair of the Hiring Committee for Criminal Division (1992-1999); Chosen to prosecute sex crimes within a year of being in the office; Selected to be the sole deputy defending then newly enacted Community Protection Act (sexually violent predator commitment statute and sex offender registration statute); Founding member of MDOP - Most Dangerous Offender Unit - a homicide response team; Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Civil Division, Labor and Employment section, 1999-present.

King County Bar Association, Labor and Employment Section, Trustee, 2007- present, and Member 2000-present; Judicial Screening Committee Member, 2000 - July, 2005.

Pacific Coast Labor and Employment Law Conference, Planning Committee, 2003-2008; Co-Chair of EEO section for planning committee, 2007 conference.

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, Planning Committee for annual fundraising event, 2003- present.

Northwest Women's Law Center, Legal Committee Chair, 1998- 2002, and Member, 1996-present.

Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Education Committee, 2005 to present; Glass Leadership Institute, 2004-2005; Civil Rights Committee, 1997-1998.

Stroum Jewish Community Center, Pro-bono representation on personnel issues, 2003 to present.

National Institute Training Advocacy (NITA), Instructor in Trial Advocacy, Summer 2000.

Seattle Women's Commission, Commissioner for three-year term, 1996-1998.

West Mercer Elementary PTA, Member and Classroom Volunteer, 2002-present.

Mercer Island Preschool Association (MIPA), Board Member, 2001-2.

Legal Defense Project, Madison Wisconsin, Student attorney, represented defendants on misdemeanor charges, 1988.

Sexual Assault Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney Australia. Provided group and individual therapy for sexual assault survivors, 1987.

Manhattan District Attorney's Office, Sex Crime Unit. Assisted in sexual assault trials, drafted briefs and a litigation manual for the prosecution of sex crimes, summer 1987.

San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation. Defended tenants in eviction proceedings, summer 1987.

Rape Crisis Center, Madison, Wisconsin. Provided individual crisis counseling for victims of sexual

assault, co-led adult survivors of incest group therapy, conducted public and private workshops on sexual assault prevention, 1986.

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, Chicago, IL. Litigation assistance in nuclear power regulatory hearing. Conducted legal research on fair housing issues, summer 1986.

Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Program, Madison, WI. Represented inmates on confinement and immigration matters, 1985.

Battered Women's Shelter, Ashdod, Israel. Provided counseling for victims of domestic violence, fall 1983–spring 1984.

Women's Law Project, Legal Assistance Foundation, Chicago, IL. Worked on domestic violence and equal pay issues, summer 1983.

Child Watch, Children's Defense Fund, Champaign, IL. Conducted a study on health risks to children, 1983.

Battered Women's Shelter, Champaign, IL. Provided counseling to victims of domestic violence, 1982-83.

Public Defender Service, Mental Health Division, Washington D.C. Conducted intake and assessment, summer 1981.

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

Being fair, impartial, and compassionate are among the most important duties of a judge. It is necessary for judges to treat all people fairly by listening and reviewing the evidence objectively. Judges must use their knowledge and judgment to make sound and, if necessary, courageous decisions. If judges are biased or lack the ability to set personal opinions aside, the system will be at peril.

It is also vital for judges to follow the rule of law. King County Superior Court judges must apply and interpret the law but may not create it.

**EDUCATION BACKGROUND SUMMARY
FOR PUBLICATION IN CANDIDATE EVALUATION REPORT**

The Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation Report is distributed to voters in print and on our website. It includes a summary of the candidate's education. Please summarize your education in 120 characters (letters, punctuation, and space all combined). The League will delete material that exceeds the space limit by beginning with the last entry. Suggested order is (degree) (subject) (school) (year, if desired).

Note: *If this question is left blank the League will not include education information in your candidate profile.*

B. A., Political Science, University of Illinois, 1983; J.D. and Masters in Social Work, University of Wisconsin, 1988.

**CIVIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY
FOR PUBLICATION IN CANDIDATE EVALUATION REPORT**

The Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation Report includes a summary of each candidate's civic involvement. Please summarize your civic involvement in the space below. We will make every attempt to include the information in the Candidate Evaluation Report as submitted. Due to space restrictions in the Report, your response is limited to 500 characters (letters, punctuation, and spaces all combined). It is important that you list your involvement beginning with the most important and ending with the least important. If you exceed the length of response permitted, or if the League should find it necessary to shorten responses for publication purposes, deletions will be made beginning with the last item listed.

Note: *This information will appear verbatim on the League's Candidate Evaluation Report. If this question is left blank, the Municipal League will not include information on your civic involvement in the Report.*

Check here if you would like the Municipal League to copy the first 500 characters from Question 4 to paste into this section.

Serving as a Judge Pro Tem, a King County Prosecutor specializing in the prosecution of sex crimes, domestic violence and homicides, and a civil practitioner representing plaintiffs and defendants, I have developed a balanced perspective that is invaluable for service as a judge. I have also been an active volunteer for the Northwest Women's Law Center, the Anti-Defamation League, the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, my children's public elementary school and my synagogue.