



The Municipal League of King County

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Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 622-8333 • cec@munileague.org

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2012 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The Municipal League of King County requests that every candidate who participates in the candidate evaluation process **submit background information prior to his/her interview with a candidate evaluation committee**. The questionnaire provides the basis for the League's research and interview process. The League's ratings are non-partisan, and based on standards of: Involvement, Effectiveness, Character, and Knowledge, all of which have been developed and refined over the past 100 years.

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 public on the League's website.

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

- | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate Questionnaire | Sent by: | <input type="checkbox"/> X Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resume (education, employment, and professional activities) | Sent by: | <input type="checkbox"/> X Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Materials | Sent by: | <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XNot Sending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constituent Newsletters and other publications | Sent by: | <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XNot Sending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph | Sent by: | <input type="checkbox"/> X Email | <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 online 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**.

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 206-622-8333.

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

A League volunteer Candidate Investigator is waiting to receive your questionnaire to begin his or her work. Please complete and return the questionnaire to the League office at your earliest convenience.

Please have your materials to us no later than May 18th, 2012.

Email the completed questionnaire and other materials to:
cec@munileague.org

2012 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Sue (Suzanne)	Rachel	Parisien

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

King County Superior Court, Position # 42

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

10

5. How long have you resided in King County?

Approximately 19

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Committee To Elect Sue Parisien for Superior Court, Position # 42

Address: P.O Box 4402

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98194

Campaign Phone: 206-551-2118

Campaign E-mail: info@sueforjudge.com

Campaign Website: sueforjudge.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)

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

Office Title	Year of Run
King County Superior Court, Position #1,	2008

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 running to become a Superior Court Judge because few positions offer the same opportunity to impact people's lives on a daily basis. Every day in every courtroom across this country, Judges are making incredibly important decisions that affect each and every one of us in many ways. Ninety-five percent of litigation takes place in state courts. Many legal issues are primarily decided there, including divorce, property rights, child welfare issues, employment law, product liability and medical malpractice. I have been incredibly fortunate to have practiced in many of these areas.

Having practiced in countless courtrooms across Washington (and before that in Pennsylvania and New Jersey) for the past 22 years, I have learned the qualities that define a superior Judge. I believe I possess many of these same qualities and have an earnest desire to learn those that I have yet to attain. After 22 years as an advocate, I am ready to become a neutral decision maker. In addition to a genuine love and respect of the law, I am interested in finding ways that our courts can be more accessible and responsive to those it serves. I sincerely believe we can make significant improvements in this area even in the face of current budget constraints. ———

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

Having practiced in countless courtrooms in three States, I have come to conclude that there are many characteristics that come together to define a superior Judge. It is difficult to place them in the order of importance but below is my best effort:

- A commitment to public service- Judges are there to serve the public—not just the parties appearing before them in a given proceeding, but the larger community which depends on the fair and impartial application of the law. I think the finest Judges are those for whom public service is a privilege. I have worked in both the private and public sector and have come to view my work for the Office of the Attorney General as an honor and privilege. I can think of no greater honor and responsibility than to serve the public as a Judge;
- Vast real life experiences- Superior Court Judges preside over a wide array of legal matters involving individuals in many different circumstances. Both professionally and personally, I have the kind of experience which makes me uniquely qualified to be a Superior Court Judge. I've been fortunate to enjoy an incredibly diverse career working for law firms; the insurance industry; as the Director of General Liability and Employment Litigation for Nordstrom Inc.; and, beginning in 1998, as an Assistant Attorney General. Currently, I am Senior Trial Counsel for Zurich North America representing small and large businesses in a wide array of litigation. Outside of work, I have been richly rewarded through my community service—in my daughters' school; on the board of Temple Beth Am; providing *pro bono* legal services for children in the foster care system, the indigent and victims of domestic violence. I am a recent breast cancer survivor and am especially proud of my role as a speaker and facilitator for a non-profit dedicated to prevention and early detection. For the past several years I have been a volunteer cook for TeenFeed. My team, "Sue's Crew" cooks on a regular basis for upwards of 75 homeless teenagers in the University District. I am also a volunteer for Girls on the Run.
- A robust knowledge of the law- In King County, civil cases out-number criminal cases almost 4 to 1. With this, a diverse and robust knowledge of many areas of civil law is most important. I have been fortunate to practice in many different areas of civil law including discrimination, civil rights, medical malpractice, personal injury, breach of contract, negligence, wrongful death, premise liability, dram shop liability and insurance coverage/bad faith.
- Humility and empathy- These two qualities are extremely important. Aloofness and arrogance have no place in the courtroom, particularly coming from the bench. Judges will preside over matters involving people in many life circumstances, some particularly difficult. Empathy is critical and is not a trait which one can "learn". My personal history has instilled both of these qualities. I lost my mother when I was two years old and was raised by my father who was a part time ESL (English as a second language) teacher. We lived in subsidized housing in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. I put myself through college and law school by working 2 and 3 jobs at a time. I have never been afraid of hard work and this too is critical. The best Judges are conscientious and well-prepared. This takes time and hard work.

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.

Being recognized by the Philadelphia Bar Association for my community service was a significant professional accomplishment and the one for which I am most proud. From 1992 until 1997, I averaged 15 hours a week of community service which included providing legal services to the indigent through the Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP); volunteering as a court appointed Child Advocate and *guardian ad litem* to several children in the foster care system; cooking and delivering meals to homebound AIDS victims through MANNA (Metropolitan AIDS Neighborhood Nutritional Alliance) and providing home cooked meals for up to 25 families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. I did this while balancing a demanding litigation practice at Aetna/Travelers Insurance Company. See community service articles attached hereto.

In 1998 when I began with the Attorney General's Office, I had only been practicing in Washington for 6 months. I had little experience with Washington litigation practice and minimal motion practice. My practice in Philadelphia was primarily fast paced personal injury with little motion practice aside from routine discovery matters. I decided that preparing dispositive motions on as many cases as I could would be the best way to quickly get up to speed on my cases and familiarize myself with Washington motion practice.

Working in the order of approaching trial dates, I prepared, argued and was successful in getting 10 cases dismissed in a 14 month period. At the time, it was a record in the office for which I received a commendation from Attorney General Gregoire. Many of the dismissals were in difficult, factually-laden employment cases including two disability discrimination, two age and sex discrimination, and one sexual harassment case.

In 2002 when I began working as the Director of General Liability and Employment Litigation for Nordstrom, Inc., I had no management or corporate in-house experience. I went from litigating cases in Washington State to supervising a large staff of in-house attorneys, claim adjusters, and outside counsel throughout the United States. In addition, I managed a wide array of corporate advisory and training responsibilities. The sheer volume and diversity of responsibilities that I managed at Nordstrom was a significant professional and personal accomplishment.

In 2007, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I learned an incredible amount about myself and have tried to help others. I have worked with a non-profit, Check Your Boobies, as a facilitator and public speaker since 2007. I wrote an article for the Washington State Bar News entitled "Work in a Time of Crisis" which was about this experience. See article attached. My experience in this difficult situation was very humbling, a trait which I believe is important for elected officials and in particular Judges.

Since February 2012, I have been an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Washington School of Law teaching trial advocacy. In many ways, I believe Judges are teachers as well. I'm confident that my experience in the classroom will help me greatly in the courtroom.

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.

Early on in my career, I was extremely involved in a wide variety of community service, some in my capacity as an attorney, and others in a non-legal capacity. From 1992 until 1997, I averaged 15 hours a week of community service which included providing legal services to the indigent through the Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP); volunteering as a court appointed Child Advocate and *guardian ad litem* to several children in the foster care system; cooking and delivering meals to homebound AIDS victims through MANNA (Metropolitan AIDS Neighborhood Nutritional Alliance) and providing home cooked meals for up to 25 families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. See community service article attached.

Since moving to Seattle in 1997, I have continued to prioritize community involvement. Professionally, I have served on a number of committees and work groups on behalf of the local and state bar association (Professionalism Committee [WSBA 2002-2003]; Courts and the Judiciary Committee [KCBA 2005-2006]; and, Pattern Interrogatory Committee serving as one of a few defense attorneys who researched and drafted pattern interrogatories on behalf of the defense bar to be used in auto cases in King County Superior Court). I am an Adjunct Instructor of Trial Advocacy at the University of Washington School of Law.

From 2008 to 2010, I served on the King County Bar Association Domestic Violence Protection Order and Revision Squad which provides *pro bono* legal representation for victims of domestic violence who have had protection orders denied. Closer to home, I have been an active member of the PTA of my daughters' school where I was a room parent 2002 to 2009. I was a volunteer coach for the local Boys and Girls Club and a volunteer for the Girls on the Run Program. See attached article. I spent two years as a member of the Board of Temple Beth Am, one of the largest congregations in the Pacific Northwest. Prior to serving on the Board, I taught Sunday School for three years. In May of 2007, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and since October 2007, I have become actively involved with a non-profit organization, "Check Your Boobies" (CYB) which is dedicated to prevention and early detection. I am very proud to be a speaker, facilitator and fundraiser for CYB. Like many people who have experienced a life threatening illness, I consider my work with CYB to be both a passion and a duty. Since 2009, I have been a regular cook for TeenFeed where my team ("Sue's Crew") cooks dinner for homeless teens and young adults in the University District.

I believe all of my community service has prepared me well to serve the public as a Judge. Judges preside over matters involving people in many different life circumstances, often very difficult ones. Both my professional experience and community service have been extremely broad and diverse. This will serve me well and ensure that every one who enters my courtroom—no matter what their background or resources—will be treated fairly and with respect.

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

The most important duties of a Judge are to apply the law fairly and impartially. Judges must be good listeners, patient, thorough, smart, curious, humble, compassionate, free from bias and able to think and act decisively with little time to deliberate.

While all of the above duties are extremely important, the two most important duties are to be fair and impartial. If a Judge does no more than apply the law fairly and impartially, then he/she is serving the public well. It is these two qualities which form the basis of our entire legal system and upon which democracy depends. That said, a Judge can not apply the law fairly and impartially without listening well, being smart, patient, free from bias and thorough.

Finished!

If possible, send your response to the Municipal League electronically as an email attachment, or insert it into an e-mail message (cec@munileague.org). Mail and email information is listed below. If the League has not contacted you to schedule an interview, please call the League office at your earliest convenience (206.622.8333).

Don't forget to send the following to the Municipal League: a resume, a photo, campaign literature, and, if you are an incumbent, constituent newsletters and other materials. Please use the check list on the cover sheet of this packet to record which items you have sent.

A Municipal League volunteer Candidate Investigator is waiting to receive your questionnaire to begin his or her work. Please complete and return the questionnaire to the League office as soon as possible.

Please have your materials to us no later than May 18, 2012. May 11 is preferred!

Email the completed questionnaire and other materials to: cec@munileague.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND GOOD LUCK IN YOUR CAMPAIGN!

THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF KING COUNTY

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