

LABWA's Sept. 2010 Gen. Body Meeting Welcomed Candidates To Share Their Platforms At Its Judicial Forum

Judicial Candidates Candice Bates Anderson and Catrice Reid-Johnson for Juvenile Court and Veronica Henry for First City Court were LABWA's guests at its judicial forum on September 16, 2010. All of the native New Orleanian candidates promised proactive steps from the bench, which would improve the judicial process for parties and counsel.

First, Anderson opened the forum with her "Second Chances" platform for Juvenile Court. Anderson explained she will bring all of the state agencies and non-profit juvenile groups together as a cohesive body for rehabilitation of juveniles. Anderson added that under her leadership this process will provide opportunities of "second chances" to juveniles. Finally, Anderson added that her endorsement and continued partnership with the AFL-CIO for apprenticeship programs will provide an avenue to instill hope in juveniles.

Second, Reid discussed her platform of "Preventive Measures" which she will bring to the bench at Juvenile Court. Reid expounded upon her experience and current role on the Conflict Panel for Juvenile Court. This experience Reid explained would help her to provide leadership for rehabilitation rather than criminalization of juveniles within the judicial system.

Third, Henry declared her platform was based upon creation of a "more efficient and deadline driven docket" at First City Court. Henry explained her docket will be similar to the case management dockets within the federal court system, which is driven by rigorous deadlines. Henry added she will also promote efficiency through "optional mediation", which she has found to be successful in many other jurisdictions.

Following each introduction, the candidates responded to questions from LABWA members regarding their concerns for the future of both Juvenile and First City Courts. Each of the candidates provided clear plans to resolve past problems while promoting efficient case management.

In sum, the forum provided an excellent venue for members to learn the platform and plans of the current candidates. Members left the forum empowered to make informed decisions for the October 2, 2010 elections.

LABWA thanks all of the candidates for their participation in its forum.

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