

VID Candidate Survey: Civil Court Judge

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Name: *

George Santana

Civil Court Judge • Questions

Why do you want to be a judge? *

I have an avid passion for helping others, and believe that litigating New Yorkers must be viewed holistically. As a judge, I will be in a position to join a bench made up of dedicated jurists who seek to help New Yorkers holistically.

What are some of the ways a civil court judge can advance progressive ideals in their rulings? *

I cannot answer this question. Judicial candidates "shall not make pledges or promises of conduct in office other than the faithful and impartial performance of the duties of the office." 22 NYCRR 100.5(A) (4)(d)(i).

What are some of the ways a civil court judge can create a courtroom that reflects progressive ideals? *

Please see answer above.

What are some concrete ways you would make your courtroom more accessible for pro se plaintiffs and defendants? *

I would implement staggered time slots for court calendar calls which would give pro se litigants greater flexibility to appearance times which afford calendar calls which would afford pro se litigants greater flexibility in attending court sessions.

Each judge is able to create certain personal court rules governing procedure in their courtroom. What are some personal court rules that you plan to adopt, and why? *

I would conduct all pre-trial conferences and motion arguments virtually, requiring physical appearances only for trials. Virtual pre-trial appearances and oral arguments save parties time , preventing further risks of loss of employment and/or other adverse situations.

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Being raised by a single immigrant mother has provided me with the strong work ethic, the tolerance, and the balanced judgment it takes to interact respectfully with people from all walks to life. I consider myself fortunate enough to have achieved my goals without losing my sense of empathy and understanding. I will serve all New Yorkers with the same understanding and empathy if selected to be a New York City Civil Court Judge.

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