

Judge Shera C. Grant
District Court Judge

Gatekeepers Association Questionnaire

1. Why are you pursuing this office? I am pursuing this office because I have always had a desire to serve the public. Before taking the bench, I was a public servant, having practiced in the public interest sector for 14 years. My mom raised my twin sister and me to always have regard for mankind and our community. Pursuing this office is the ultimate service to mankind.

2. Who are your five largest contributors? My five largest contributors are: Bender and Agboola LLC, Alain Valias Jean, Fred Jones Unlimited, LLC, Newsome Law, LLC, and CWA 3902 PAC.

3. What is your judicial philosophy? My judicial philosophy is to be knowledgeable of the law, follow the law, treat everyone (plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and the general public) with respect at all times, and to never diminish the integrity of the judicial office.

4. What are your 3 highest priorities in your judicial practice? My three highest priorities are: Servant Leadership, Even Temperament, and Fairness. I want the citizens to understand that the highest form of leadership is that of a servant. Servant leadership is about serving others. Productive leaders solve problems, while servant leaders transform societies. It is important that judges have even temperament with the people he/she serves. It is a priority for me to make sure that citizens have a judge that does not have volatile moods and is not quick to anger when hearing any case. Fairness is my most important priority. The public deserves a judge who can listen to both sides of an argument and rule from the law in an honest and fair manner. It is a blessing to serve others every day. When you are a servant leader, even tempered, and fair, you are showing GOD that you are appreciative of the opportunity.

5. Where do you find motivation and inspiration for your job? My motivation and inspiration comes from my faith. GOD has shown me so many things while on the campaign trail. It was only because of my strong faith in GOD that allowed me to persevere and get appointed to the judicial seat and ultimately win the primary election.

6. Approximately how many cases have you been the lead counsel on? During my career as an attorney, I have been lead counsel on thousands of cases. As a prosecutor in Atlanta, GA for 8.5 years, I was responsible for over 100 cases annually. During my experience as a solo practitioner, I was responsible for over 150 cases as lead trial attorney. As the Deputy Chief Public Defender of the Public Defender's Office, I was responsible for approximately 25 cases as lead counsel. During my entire career as an attorney, I have tried approximately 85 jury trials from jury selection to verdict as lead counsel.

7. If we were to inquire with opposing counsel with whom you previously opposed in a trial or legal proceedings, what do you think would be their characterization of you? How would you describe yourself? Opposing counsel would say that I am an advocate for my client, but professional and respectful at the same time to all. I believe attorneys can be adversarial, yet professional. I am a passionate person when I am advocating for a client, but I do not do anything at the expense of breaking any rules of professional conduct or law. At the end of the day, I am a person that believes in integrity and morals.

8. Describe your current family life. My husband, Daryl Grant, and I have been married for thirteen years. We have two beautiful children. Our daughter is 7 years old, and our son is 3 years old. My husband is a managing director with KPMG Advisory Services.

9. What are some of your community activities? I have been very active in my community. I am a volunteer with Aletheia House, Salvation Army, and INROADS internship organization. In addition, I created a youth development program called The Leadership Academy. This program was designed to increase academic skills, critical thinking and reasoning and inspire students to make healthy positive life choices and promote awareness in public interest law. I have also hosted monthly forums at community based organizations discussing a variety of legal topics. I am a former member of the Vestavia Hills Board of Education. I also sit on the Board of Directors for Leadership Vestavia. In addition, I, along with a distinguished group of others, formed a program called "Help The Hills," a program formed to foster open dialogue with parents, educators, and community leaders regarding drug and alcohol abuse within the community. Because of my community service efforts, I have been awarded the Al.com's Young Professional's Project of the Year for creation of the Leadership Academy, NAACP Community Empowerment Award, and 2015 "Women Who Shape The State" award recipient.

10. What church do you attend and what is your pastor's name? My family and I attend Trinity Baptist Church. We worship under the leadership of Pastor John E. King, Jr.