

South Lyon Area Democrats: Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire

Application for recommendation by the SLAD to voters in support of your campaign.

City of South Lyon, Lyon Township, and Green Oak Township.

Please email to SLAD candidate endorsement committee: matthew.kardel@gmail.com

Candidate Name (as it will appear on the ballot): **Clarence Dass**

Office/Position running for (including district number of applicable): **Judge of Oakland County Circuit Court**

Date of submission: **September 15, 2020**

Please share a brief biography and personal background:

I served as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office from 2012-2016. I was a member of the Special Victims Unit, which prosecuted some of the most violent crimes in our county. After leaving the Prosecutor's Office, I founded a law firm devoted to helping individuals avoid the justice system, including those with mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependencies, and immigration problems.

I have dedicated my entire career to serving our community. In 2017, I received the Leon Hubbard Community Service Award from the Oakland County Bar Association for "promoting cultural diversity, advancing social equality, and working to enhance the quality of life for all people." In 2019, I received the Unsung Hero Award from the State Bar of Michigan for continuing to serve my clients and community while fighting (and beating) stage 4 colon cancer.

I am also a first-generation American and a husband.

Qualifications for running (include previous appointed or elected public office positions and short resume):

Having been a prosecutor, defense attorney, and manager of a law firm, I have diverse, well-rounded experience that fosters empathy for others and will serve to improve our justice system.

I have spent my entire career serving others. As a prosecutor, I served to protect our community and bring justice to victims of crime. In private practice, I have seen our justice system from another perspective--representing people fighting for their liberty, advocating for their kids, and working to save their businesses. I have fought on both sides in Circuit Court.

My experience in Circuit Court has prepared me to serve there. It is where legal challenges are greatest, and I am very much up to the task.

List requirements you have completed for the office (# signatures collected, date filed, fees paid):

Judicial candidates for a county-wide position file by obtaining signatures only. I collected over 3,000 signatures at the height of the pandemic (litigation due to the pandemic reduced the signature requirement from 4,000 to 3,000). I filed on April 21, 2020.

Amount of money raised as of date of submission: **Approximately \$250,000.00**

Principal duties of the office you are running for:

Circuit Court is where divorces and other family matters are adjudicated, where the most serious crimes are tried, and where the largest disputes about money are settled. Having served in various roles throughout my career, I believe I will be fit to preside over any of these matters.

Top priorities once elected:

Given the current distrust of our justice system and the systemic issues that have created racial disparities, my priorities as Judge would be to (1) eliminate cash bail so individuals can defend their case properly, (2) avoid incarceration wherever possible and instead focus on rehabilitation through treatment courts, mental health clinics, and other resources, (3) improve access to the courts by continuing to provide one's day in court virtually, as long as it does not infringe upon one's constitutional rights. My guiding principle would be to level the playing field for all in our justice system, regardless of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or creed.

Plans for communicating with constituents once elected:

While Judges are limited in the extent to which they can communicate with the public, my plan would be to continuing serving the community as I have done throughout my career—attending community events, assisting with the formation of legal aid, and ensuring that my courtroom is always accessible to the public.

What are your primary sources for information/news?

I read all our local and major national newspapers, as well as online publications—both legal and non-legal.

Local Issues

Indicate your position on the following topics, including solutions. A response is needed only if applicable to your prospective office

City / Township / County's Master Plan:

N/A

Tax Abatement & Business Development:

N/A

Local Environmental Policies:

N/A

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services:

N/A

What do you see as the role of the city / township / county in the school system?

N/A

Public Safety:

Having been both a prosecutor and defense attorney, I believe judges must protect the public while still having empathy for every litigant who enters their courtroom. Knowing the difference between those who must be jailed and those who should not is critical. Furthermore, law enforcement who run afoul of the law themselves pose a risk to public safety—they will be treated as such in my courtroom.

Public Transportation:

N/A

Other comments:

I am honored to be endorsed by the incumbent of this position, the majority of judges in the Family Division of the Oakland County Circuit Court, and the majority of judges in the court itself.

I am also endorsed by the Oakland County Democratic Black Caucus, 14th District Democrats, UAW, Metro Detroit AFL-CIO, the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights, SEIU Healthcare Michigan, UNITEHERE! Local 24, and the Michigan Association for Justice.

I would be honored to be endorsed by the South Lyon Democrats, and will carry your support with pride.

Which planks of the Michigan Democratic Party do you feel most strongly about on a local level (select all that apply)?

1. Education: Improving Public Education for Children and Adults
a. Yes
2. Economy: Using Aggressive & Comprehensive Economic Development Policies
a. Yes
3. Job Training: Improving the Skills of our Workforce
a. Yes
4. Trade: Using an Approach Based on a Level Playing Field
a. Yes
5. Economic Development: Improving Depressed Communities
a. Yes
6. Agriculture: Protecting our Farms and Rural Communities
a. Yes
7. Transportation: Providing Access to Opportunities
a. Yes
8. Information Technology: Expanding Access to Information
a. Yes
9. Small Business: Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Self-employment
a. Yes
10. Income: Rewarding Work
a. Yes
11. Taxes: Providing a Sufficient, Stable and Fair Tax System
a. Yes
12. Health Care: Providing Health Security for Families and Individuals
a. Yes
13. Children and Families: Providing Help for Working Parents with Children
a. Yes
14. Coping With Misfortune: Bankruptcy, Foreclosure and Homelessness
a. Yes
15. The Environment: Protecting Our Land, Water, Air and Open Space
a. Yes
16. Social Justice: Achieving Equal and Humane Treatment Under the Law
a. Yes
17. Women: Protecting the Rights of Women
a. Yes
18. Veterans: Respect and Help for Those Who Serve Our Country
a. Yes
19. Youth: Building Citizens Who Will Brighten our Future
a. Yes
20. Seniors: Providing Retirement Security and Needed Services
a. Yes
21. Voting: Nurturing Democracy and Promoting Civic Participation
a. Yes
22. Faith: Connecting Our Party with People of Faith
a. Yes
23. Public Safety: Creating Safer Communities for All
a. Yes—especially pertinent to this role.
24. Energy: Providing Power to the People

- a. **Yes**
- 25. Judicial System: Serving the People, not Special Interests
 - a. **Yes—especially pertinent to this role.**
- 26. Government: Freeing Politics from Money Influence and Special Interests
 - a. **Yes.**
- 27. Corporations: Insisting on Corporate Accountability
 - a. **Yes.**
- 28. Consumer Protection: Protecting People in the Marketplace
 - a. **Yes.**
- 29. Financial Services: Protecting People in Credit and Banking Transactions
 - a. **Yes.**
- 30. Providing Proper Oversight of Our Financial System
 - a. **Yes.**
- 31. Local Government: Defending Our Democracy
 - a. **Yes.**

Contact Information

Candidate preferred email address: **clarence@dass4judge.com

Candidate preferred phone number: **(248) 840-0548

**Candidate home address (where you live) street address, city, state, zip:

**7382 Cathedral Drive
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301**

Campaign mailing address (if applicable):

**7382 Cathedral Drive
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301**

Campaign website: **www.dass4judge.com**

Campaign social media (identify platform, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.):

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/clarence4court>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ClarenceMDass>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/clarencedass/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/clarence-dass-7066931b/>

Campaign hashtags: **#clarence4court**

Campaign contact name and title (manager / assistant): **Alan Feuer (Campaign Manager)**

Campaign contact preferred phone number: **(248) 629-4640**

Campaign contact preferred email address: **acfeuer@aol.com**

Other contact & media info: **N/A**

Thank you for submitting your candidate info to SLAD. By submitting this information, you agree that all information submitted, except for the **starred items (candidate preferred email address, phone number, and street address), can be made public and shared on SLAD online platforms and physical documents.