

**2011 LEGISLATIVE  
CANDIDATE  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

- 1 • For the past decade, Louisiana's legal system has ranked 48<sup>th</sup> or worse in the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform's state rankings of legal climates based on a survey of major employers. Would you support civil justice reform legislation that would improve Louisiana's legal climate?  
YES or NO
- 2 • Do you agree or disagree that lawsuit abuse leads to higher costs of running a business, higher costs for goods and services and higher insurance rates in Louisiana?  
AGREE or DISAGREE
- 3 • Do you generally favor or oppose Louisiana legislation that would create new causes of action and thereby increase the number of civil lawsuits filed?  
FAVOR or OPPOSE
- 4 • Do you favor or oppose allowing people to sue businesses for exposure to asbestos even if there is no evidence that the business being sued contributed to or caused an illness?  
FAVOR or OPPOSE
- 5 • Some court jurisdictions perceived to be favorable to plaintiffs have a high volume of lawsuits filed there. Do you think lawsuits should be tried in the jurisdiction where the alleged injury occurred, or should the party filing the lawsuit be allowed to pick the jurisdiction?  
WHERE INJURY OCCURRED or LET THE FILER CHOOSE
- 6 • Over the past several years, the business and legal reform communities have opposed legislation that would have allowed the attorney general to hire plaintiffs' attorneys on a contingency fee basis to pursue litigation on behalf of the state. If attempts were made to introduce this legislation again, would you vote for or against it?  
FOR or AGAINST
- 7 • Louisiana is one of a few states that do not entitle defendants the right to a trial by jury in civil lawsuits, unless damages sought are in excess of \$50,000. Will you support legislation to reduce the threshold amount of damages claimed at which parties to a lawsuit can request a jury trial?  
YES or NO
- 8 • Many trust funds have been set up to compensate people who have been exposed to asbestos, and some plaintiffs try to "double dip" by filing multiple lawsuits over the same injury. Do you agree or disagree that prior to filing suit against a Louisiana-based business a person should disclose if he or she has already received compensation from a trust fund or has filed a claim with the trust fund for compensation for the same injury?  
AGREE or DISAGREE
- 9 • In 2006, the state legislature passed a law to ensure that money paid to landowners as a result of a lawsuit over contamination of their property by oil and gas activities would in fact be used to pay for economic losses and clean up and restore the land. Do you agree or disagree that money paid as a result of a lawsuit over contamination should be used to cover actual losses and clean up the land?  
AGREE or DISAGREE
- 10 • Would you favor or oppose legislation requiring a landowner alleging that an oil company contaminated his or her property first allow relevant state agencies to review the proof of contamination?  
FAVOR or OPPOSE
- 11 • A recent statewide poll found that 75 percent of registered voters are less likely to support a candidate running for public office who took campaign contributions from personal injury lawyers. Do you accept campaign contributions from personal injury lawyers?  
YES or NO