

THE GATES: COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER AND THE COMMUNITY



Yvonne Atkinson-Gates ready to tackle Clark County's problems head on.

Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice
By Posey Davis

Posters, flyers, speeches, debates, and campaign fundraisers, everyone can hardly wait for the election. If you think you are fed up with the political hoopla, Yvonne and Lee Gates opened up and talked about their work and marriage in the realm of politics.

Lee, 40, is a native of Las Vegas. He attended Highland Elementary, Matt Kelley Six Grade center, and Rancho High School. Lee graduated from Western High School and the



Judge Lee Gates, willing to take the lead in protecting the rights of others.

Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice
University of Nevada, Las Vegas and received his law degree from the University of Colorado.

Yvonne 35, was born in Henderson, Nevada. She attended Madison Elementary and Wm. Orr Junior High. Yvonne graduated from Clark High School and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where she received her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees.

Both have been involved in politics for a number of years. Lee said as a teenager he assisted with Ruby Duncan's

campaign. He was involved in University politics and remained involved. Her managed an East Texas law firm, was a Public Defender and District Attorney. He said he appeared in front of judges a lot and enjoyed working with them, so he decided to apply for judgeship. He was appointed Clark County District Court Judge a year ago by Governor Bob Miller and is seeking re-election to this position.

Yvonne said when she was 15, she worked on her godfather's campaign, Cranford Crawford's, Woodrow Wilson's campaign and a variety of other campaigns. She worked for the city, state and county government for 14 years, and worked with the school board for eight years. She's now desiring the County Commissioner's seat which is the second most powerful position in the state of Nevada.

Yvonne said she was drafted by friends to run for the school board and got a taste of being an elected official. She said she likes being involved in the community and helping to solve problems.

Lee said he felt compelled to be involved because of the ac-

complishments of others like Martin Luther King and Malcolm X on the national level, and Charles West, Robert Reed and H.P. Fitzgerald on the local level. I feel I have a duty to the community and society.

Both Lee and Yvonne were first generation college graduates. Lee's parents were from Louisiana, his mother was a maid at the Flamingo and at the Desert Inn for 20 years and his father was a porter at the Desert Inn.

ACTIVIST SEEKS INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED RACIAL SLURS BY STEVE WYNN

Sentinel-Voice

Community activist Chester Richardson, Monday, asked the State Gaming Control Board to look into allegations that religious and racial slurs have been made about employees by Mirage Resorts Chairman Steve Wynn.

The allegations surfaced during a legal battle between Wynn and former Golden Nugget General Manager Dennis Gomes, who quit his job at the Nugget to work for Wynn's competition, Donald Trump, before his contract expired.

Now managing the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, N.J., Gomes

Yvonne's parents were from Arkansas and also had menial jobs.

Yvonne says, "the most influential person in my life was my grandfather because he taught me about the values of life and the importance of education."

"My older sister influenced me the most, because she would always read to me and my brothers and sisters, and when she finished reading the books, she

gave them to me. She would always encourage me and told me how smart I was," Lee says.

Both are from church-going families, and feel religion and family are important. Yvonne and Lee have three children, twins, Tony and Angie, 19 and Brian 9, who Yvonne remarks is the most supportive person in her life besides Lee.

She says, "Lee always felt I could do things I did not think I

(See The Gates, Page 6)

Richardson, who is active in the Las Vegas NAACP and other organizations faxed a letter to gaming officials, requesting, in addition to the formal investigation

(See Activist, Page 6)

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