



**BROWARD COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTS
2020 JUDICIAL CANDIDATES**

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Broward County Presidents' Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses

Forty-three clubs and caucuses make up the membership of the Council, representing over 3000 Democrats in Broward County. Each organization recognizes the importance of educating its members, as well as the community at large, to learn about issues, elections, and the candidates who compete for elected office. Our members are the grassroots workers who educate and encourage their community to vote.

The Judicial Candidates Forum

Learning about candidates who seek a seat on the County or Circuit Court is especially challenging for voters. Creating a forum where our community hears from the candidates is critical. The Judicial Candidates Forum this year is divided into two presentations: County Court races and 17th Circuit Court races and are presented virtually due the CORID19. They have been recorded and are available on line.

The Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

A questionnaire was created whereby a candidate provided responses in their own words, and is made available to our members on line. It is especially helpful to download the questionnaire as the presentations are viewed.

Addendum:

Notes about questionnaire responses:

No response:
Circuit Court Group 27
Meredith Chaikin-Weiss

Request for clarification from certain judicial candidates regarding areas of the questionnaire where responses were not fully answered or not answered at all.

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? Y N If so, explain briefly.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? Y N If so, explain briefly.

Each candidate was sent a personal email with the following request:

What year was the arrest?
What were you specifically charged with?
What was the disposition of the case?

George Odom Jr. – Group #16

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? Yes If so, explain briefly.

I was arrested nearly 18 years ago for a delinquent act. I accepted responsibility for my actions. The disposition was adjudication withheld. My Juvenile record was automatically expunged.

Clarification:

A firearm was located in a vehicle stopped and searched by police that I occupied.

The charge was (constructive) possession of a firearm by a juvenile.

The arrest was in 1999 when I was 16 years old. The disposition was adjudication withheld and ultimately administratively expunged.

**Broward County Presidents' Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses
2020 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**



Candidate's name:

Dennis Bailey

Seeking Office of:

Broward County Circuit Court Judge

Group # 16

Incumbent: Yes

Education

List the colleges and law schools you have attended, dates, and degrees awarded.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME 1974-76

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY 1976-77

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY 1981-82 B.A. ENGLISH

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW JURIS DOCTOR

Legal Experience

How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? 1986 Broward Bar? Yes

Other states? No

List your legal employment experience since graduating from law school, including dates employed, your position, and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

[In each employment, except my current judgeship, my responsibilities were to try cases]

OFFICE OF STATE ATTORNEY – Assistant State Attorney, misdemeanors to murder (9 years)

BAILEY, BAILEY & BAILEY – General practice, Criminal Defense, Torts, Probate (5 years)

BAILEY & VAZQUEZ BAILEY – General practice, Torts, Civil Rights, Special Needs Law (7 years)

FIDELITY NATIONAL – In-house Complex Commercial Litigation (statewide)(federal) (3 years)

CHOICE LEGAL GROUP – Foreclosure Litigation (statewide) (4 years)

17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA – Circuit Judge (Family, Criminal, Civil) (6 years)

Percentage of litigation as an attorney related to: 50% Civil 50% Criminal

How many cases have you tried to verdict? Jury trials: over 200; **Bench trials:** over 200

Judicial Experience

Do you have any experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution? Y

If so, what type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

All circuit court level: 1 year in Family Div.; 4 years in Criminal Div.; over 4 months presiding over various matters in Civil Div.; presided over 100 jury trials to verdict, incl. 4 death penalty trials; in each division, I reduced the particular caseload by more than 30%. Presided over more jury trials than any other judge in 2016, 2017, 2018 and in 2019 until I left to handle non-jury matters.

Percentage of trial experience as a judge related to: 20% Civil 80% Criminal

Judicial Goals

Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.

Serve the people well regardless of my divisional assignment. Serving them well includes respecting the dignity of each litigant, lawyer, victim, interested family member, witness, clerk, court reporter, courtroom deputy, and judicial assistant; includes applying the legal process to all issues presented with dedication to the law rather than preference to the outcome; includes case management that

enables citizens to have their voices heard and their issues resolved as expeditiously as possible while respecting everyone's Constitutional right of due process; includes respecting the time and attention of citizens performing their invaluable jury service; includes protecting the downtrodden and disenfranchised with the same vigor and respect as that afforded the well-heeled; and separate my work life from my family life.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role.

Experience. It is important that judges have a passion for the law, that they know and understand both the substantive areas assigned to them and the rules of evidence and procedure. However, it is imperative that judges have an even deeper knowledge and understanding of people and their concerns, foibles, needs and desires, and their sense of justice. Any lawyer can find the law simply by pulling out a smart phone, but that is not enough. A judge in civil courts may have to decide whether to shut down a business or take away a family home. A judge in family courts may have to take a parent's children away. A judge in criminal courts may have to take somebody's freedom away or even, tragically, someone's life. Those are not legal decisions but life decisions. Discerning what action to take requires a reservoir of wisdom that cannot be found in law books. A judicial candidate seeking the bench too early may not know the depth of the issues inherent in the position, may lack the seasoning to discern artifice from truth, and may be unprepared for the long line of citizens at the door of the courthouse seeking truth and justice in a circumstance that they and their lawyers have been struggling with for years without finding a fair resolution. When they place it all – their homes and business, their children, their freedom and lives – in the judge's hands, it is too late for that judge to realize that some things cannot be taught; they must be experienced. To learn the most valuable lessons in life that will enrich a judge's skill for discernment, that person must first go through his/her own journey. The bench is no place to learn as you go.

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

The biggest surprise to me when I left the practice of law upon being elected Circuit Judge was the mental, emotional and physical demands the position places on a jurist. As a lawyer, there are moments of high stress when you have to be "on your game" but those are surrounded with periods of calm when you can regroup and relax. I recognized quickly that a judge has no down time, that the judge must be "on your game" at all times. I learned the hard way that failure to recognize how important it is for a judge to step back and take time to rejuvenate, especially after a high-stress matter, is to dangerously underestimate the toll the position takes on a person. The judge has to bring fresh, positive energy to each matter, no matter how busy the day, or even the month, is. The best practice to attain proper judicial temperament – patiently treating every person in the courthouse with dignity and respect – is for a judge to respect his/her own need to find inner calm, so each day, each case, each lawyer/client, each person associated with the work of the courthouse, is presented with a judge of pleasant and professional temperament.

Political Experience

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? **No**

Community Experience

Please list professional, community, religious organizations, and social clubs of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years.

Knights of Columbus (officer), Men's Club member, Emmaus Club member, Children's Catechist, Drama Ministry and Nativity Communities of Faith ministry at Nativity Catholic Church in Hollywood;

Autism Society of Broward County;

Exceptional Student Education Advisory Council with the Broward County School Board;

Past and current statewide instructor with Florida Advanced Judicial Studies Program;

Former Judicial Liaison for, and Former President of, North Broward Bar Association;

Current Board Member of, and current member of, Weston Bar Association;

Incoming Judicial Liaison for Broward County Bar Association;
 Coach, Nova Southeastern University School of Law, Mock Trial Team;
 Former instructor, Nova Southeastern University School of Law Trial Advocacy Program;
 Former instructor, University of Miami Paralegal Studies Program;
 Former instructor, Broward College Law Enforcement Academy;
 Member, Nova Southeastern University School of Law Alumni Association;
 Member, Florida Atlantic University Alumni Association

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.

List any awards/honors received for community service.

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? Yes If so, explain briefly.

As a judge, I agreed to receive a reprimand for not maintaining the highest standard of conduct and for not being courteous to an attorney when I disciplined his behavior in a jury trial without first excusing the jury from the courtroom, which may have adversely affected the client's right to a fair trial (ultimately, the client won at trial) and then for not immediately removing myself from the case when asked to do so by the attorney. Prior to the reprimand, I apologized to the attorney in writing for my error, an error I have not repeated and will not repeat. While the vast majority of American judges do not have to deal with the possibility of imposing the death penalty in any particular case, I presided over four death penalty trials just in my first term alone. I failed to recognize the toll that level of professional stress took on me and how it affected my judicial temperament. At my request, I had my assignment changed out of Criminal Division temporarily in the fall of 2019, to step away from jury work and high-profile criminal trials. My time away the high-profile and death penalty trials has been personally and professionally beneficial and fruitful.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? No If so, explain briefly.

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy.

A courthouse can be an environment overcast with human distress. Pain and suffering – yesterday's, today's and/or tomorrow's – walk the halls of each Broward courthouse. Discouragement too often overcomes citizens directly/indirectly affected by the decisions handed down in each courtroom. The legal citizenry comes before each judge yearning for consistent fairness, deep justice and hard decisions tempered by mercy and empathy but, understandably, each citizen also comes with a subjective agenda. Judges cannot solve every problem in society, or even reach decisions which satisfy everyone, but we can bring hope to those who stand before us. By honoring my duty to apply the law with no attempt to rewrite it to suit my preferences, by working just as hard as any man earning his living with the strength of his arms and the breadth of his back, by listening to citizens with the same earnestness as any parent to their child's cares and concerns, I will fairly and compassionately serve every person within this jurisdiction as I have during my first term. I will continue to work as hard as ever to remain efficient and productive, I will make sure no litigant is denied either access to court or the right of due process in his/her search for truth and justice, and I will give no interested citizen cause to shake her head in disappointment that the process I employ is either arbitrary or unbalanced. By doing so, I will honor the trust placed in, and responsibility placed upon, Judge Dennis Bailey.

**Broward County Presidents' Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses
2020 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**



Candidate's name:

Abbe Sheila Rifkin Logan

Seeking Office of:

Broward County Circuit Court Judge

Group #: 16 Incumbent: No

Education

List the colleges and law schools you have attended, dates, and degrees awarded.

University of Florida, attended 1974-1978, Bachelor of Science awarded March, 1978

University of Miami School of Law, attended 1978-1981, Juris Doctor awarded May, 1981

Legal Experience

How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? 38 years Broward Bar? 8 years
Other states? N/A

List your legal employment experience since graduating from law school, including dates employed, your position, and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

- 1) STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, 1980-Present: *Assistant State Attorney, Senior Trial Counsel, Chief of the Sexually Violent Predator Unit*—Prosecution of the most complex and high-profile homicide cases; supervision and prosecution of the civil commitment of sexual predators
- 2) FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF LAW, 2007-Present--*Adjunct Professor*, Trial Advocacy Program—teaching trial skills to second- and third-year law students.
- 3) UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, LEVIN SCHOOL OF LAW/THE FLORIDA BAR (joint sponsorship)--2005-Present: *Faculty/Team Leader*, Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial Training Program—teaching trial skills to prosecutors and public defenders around the State and the U.K.

Percentage of litigation as an attorney related to: Civil-approx. 1% Criminal 99%

How many cases have you tried to verdict? Jury trials 175+/ Bench trials 100+

Judicial Experience

Do you have any experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution? No

If so, what type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

Judicial Goals

Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge--I will strive to bring honor, fairness, compassion, and justice to the position I seek, and uphold the integrity of the bench. I understand that it is a privilege to be a judge, and I will be thankful for that privilege every single day, every single hour, and every single minute should I be given the favor of being elected by the people of this county. The people of Broward County have had some unfortunately negative experiences with a few members of the bench in recent years. It would be my goal to make the citizens of Broward proud to have me as their Broward County Circuit Court Judge and restore in some small part a feeling of pride in the Broward judiciary. I have developed a work ethic after years of dedicated service. As a judge I know

that I must work hard, even harder than the litigants who come before me, as I will be the one tasked with making decisions that will affect many people and many lives. That means long hours both before the litigants and court personnel show up, and also well after they've left for the evening. It means being fully prepared to listen and rule, and to rule consistently, not letting favoritism or irritation with a litigant or concept affect my rulings.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role—I bring experience and patience. There is no substitute for experience, both in the law and in life. I've spent the last thirty-nine years learning the law, learning how to listen, and learning how to look at things from a 360-degree perspective. I understand the value of hard work and putting in the effort necessary to achieve one's goals. I was not a child of privilege, but I was lucky to grow up in an unconditionally loving home. I was taught perseverance, to work hard for what you wanted, how to cope with loss, the love of country, and fealty to the law. I worked two jobs to put myself through school after the untimely death of my father when I was a teenager. My perspective has not only been shaped by the positive things that have occurred over the years, but also by the tragedies and the negative events that I've experienced.

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament--Proper judicial temperament can be summed up in one word: respect. How a judge behaves in the courtroom has a ripple effect on not only the way he or she is perceived, but how the public perceives the court system. A judge who does not respect the time of others, or does not exercise discretion wisely, thoughtfully, or soberly, gives the impression that justice is decided on a whim. People want to believe they are being heard; a judge who does not listen does a disservice to the litigants and the system. Not everyone will be happy with the judge's ruling, but at least they will feel they have had a voice and have been heard.

Political Experience

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? No

Community Experience

Please list professional, community, religious organizations, and social clubs of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years.

Professional:

- 1) Broward County Women Lawyers Association, member since 2012, current President;
- 2) South Broward Bar Association, member since 2011, past President, current board member;
- 3) Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Awards and Nominating Committees;
- 4) Broward County Bar Association, 2013-present;
- 5) Broward County Trial Lawyers Association, participant since 2013;
- 6) The Florida Bar, member since 1982, Grievance Committee Chair;
- 7) Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Awards Committee, 2019-present;
- 8) B'nai Brith Justice Association, member and participant since 2014;
- 9) Subsection chair, Juvenile Rules Committee, the Florida Bar, 1984-1986

Community and Religious:

- 1) Temple Beth Emet, Cooper City, Florida, (my family and I have been members since 1991), Executive Board of Directors 1994-2000, President of Sisterhood 1996-2000, TBE Choir Soloist, Mitzvah Day Team Leader, Nosh Fest;
- 2) Precious Dreams Foundation, South Florida Chapter, member of Broward County founding committee, 2017-present

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.

1) Nominee for Statewide Prosecutor, 2018; 2) 2016 Recipient of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers Rosemary Barkett Award for Outstanding Achievement (the highest award conferred annually by that organization; past recipients are Janet Reno, Supreme Court Justices Barbara Pariente and Peggy Quince, and various senators and state representatives); 3) 2012 Prosecutor of the Year, Law Enforcement Officer's (LEO) Foundation and the Miami-Dade Chiefs of Police Association; 4) Meritorious Public Service, The Florida Bar; 5) Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, conferred September 21, 2019, conferred by Congresswoman Wasserman-Schultz.

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? No If so, explain briefly.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? No If so, explain briefly.

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy

I will always be mindful that to be chosen a judge is a privilege and an honor bestowed by the people and not a personal right or possession. I will be sitting in a courtroom belonging to the people, at the will of the people, because of the grace of the people. That honor will never be lost on me.

I have wanted to be a judge since the day I took the oath of the Florida Bar. However, I knew that to be the best judge I could I would need to hone my craft and my skill so that I could effectively serve the people. So, I waited until I thought I had the experience and maturity to be the most effective judge and servant. In 2011, I began an unsuccessful journey to appointment to the bench by the governor, although I had been warmly received by the Seventeenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission; they favored me with a nomination many, many times. I decided that my road to the bench would have to follow a different path and I decided to let the people decide; hence, this run for judicial office.

My reason for wanting to be a judge, and for never giving up the quest is simple: I am a public servant. I was destined to serve the public and give back as thanks for what this community, this state, and this country gave to me and to family members who came before me. Money has never guided me in anything I did; it's nice to have, but I've never chased the dream of being wealthy. The feeling one gets when they've served the public cannot be defined or bought; it can only be felt. Some people get satisfaction from possessions, others do not. I'm in the latter category.

It really goes back to my grandparents, particularly my maternal grandmother, whose passing 47 years ago later this month still brings me pain. My maternal grandparents did not have an easy road coming to the promised land called America. My then- sixteen-year-old grandfather was shot fleeing from the Russian army which was forcing his service to a government that wanted our people annihilated; he proudly carried those shotgun pellets in his body as a symbol of his freedom until he died. My maternal grandmother, the oldest of ten children, was put on a boat at the age of fourteen to cross the ocean alone to a life her parents could not give her. I cannot imagine the courage it took for them to do this all by themselves as mere children. Yet they constantly taught us the greatness of service to this country, because the United States opened its arms to them and welcomed them in, allowing them to work and become valuable members and citizens of our society. The law which made this country a symbol of liberty for all was something that was so valuable that they were willing to leave everything and everyone behind to live under the umbrella of freedom. As a result, I was always taught country/community first, and that's what has carried over. I want to continue to serve my community as a judge, taking my public service to the next level.

Broward County Presidents' Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses
2020 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate's name:

George Odom Jr.

Seeking Office of:

Broward County Circuit Court Judge

Group #: 16

Incumbent: No

Education

List the colleges and law schools you have attended, dates, and degrees awarded.

Florida Coastal School of Law, Jacksonville, Florida Juris Doctorate 2010-2012

University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, Bachelor of Business Administration/Minor Economics 2006-2008

Florida State College (formerly known as Florida Community College), Jacksonville, Florida Associate in Arts 2004-2006

Legal Experience

How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? 7 years & 7 months; **Broward Bar?** 7 years & 3 months **Other states?** None

List your legal employment experience since graduating from law school, including dates employed, your position, and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

Dixon & Odom LLC – Fort. Lauderdale, Florida, April 2018 – Present, Managing Partner, Practice Areas: Federal and State Criminal, Family, Immigration, Personal Injury Law

Website: www.DOFloralaw.com

George Odom Jr. Esq., Attorney at Law P.L. – Pompano Beach, Florida, April 2016- April 2018, Managing Attorney, Practice Areas: Family, Personal Injury and Criminal Law

Website: www.Gofloridalaw.com

17th Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office - Fort Lauderdale, Florida, February 2013 – May 2016, Assistant Public Defender – Circuit Court Division, Assistant Public Defender, Assistant Senior Line Attorney; Performed complex legal research, motion practice and pretrial litigation; Represented clients in the defense of violent felony offenses, fraud cases, complex DUI cases, major economic crimes, mental health court cases, and second chaired homicide cases.

Lender Processing Services Jacksonville, Florida, October 2012 – January 2013, Attorney Liaison, Performed legal quality checks on files from collections; Conducted foreclosure screens and marked initial legal coding; Reviewed demands sent from plaintiff's attorneys; Sent HUD Occupancy Letter's to the appropriate parties; Completed 1st legal stages and assignments; Reviewed incoming mail from mortgagors, third parties, and all interested parties; Assisted with compliance policies; Reviewed bankruptcy chapters 7, 11, 12, and 13; Reviewed Veterans Administration Rules, HUD, FHA Familiar with the following organizations: FNMA, FHLMC, and GNMA.

Kevin M. Cobbin Attorney at Law, P.L. Jacksonville, Florida February 2012 – October 2012, Certified Legal Intern, Member of the family law, criminal law and general civil litigation groups; Learned Florida Statue Section 61; Assisted in all stages of strategy, pretrial litigation, including client reporting, discovery and depositions; Supervised research for drafting pleadings, memoranda of law, motions in limine, and motions for summary judgment; Assisted in trial, including preparing and examining expert and fact witnesses, jury selection, jury instructions, opening statements, directed

verdict and judgment of acquittal; Performed complex legal research, background checks, and investigations using WestlawNext, LexisNexis, and investigative techniques.

4th Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office Jacksonville, Florida May 2005 – August 2007 – Investigations Department January 2010 – May 2010 – Pro Bono Volunteer, May 2011 – January 2012 – Certified Legal Intern, Investigations; Volunteer and Certified Legal Intern Felony Division, Conducted background checks on witnesses and clients; Investigated crimes scenes, took photographs, talked to witnesses and recorded factwitnesses testimony; Conducted complex research for violent felony offenses and pretrial motions; Facilitated witness's testimony for sentencing hearings, relatives, character witnesses, and professional witnesses; Performed advanced research using the law library, LexisNexis and Westlaw.

Deutsche Bank AG, Jacksonville, Florida August 2008 – December 2009, Operations Analyst-Closing and Compliance Functions, Researched data materials for closing documents related to corporate trading and FEC compliance; Analyzed and traded corporate debt portfolio valued over 200 million dollars; Supervised corporate policies and procedures while ensuring compliance with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; Monitored legislative acts passed by the U.S. Congress and State Legislature affecting corporate and investment banking rules and regulations.

Percentage of litigation as an attorney related to: Civil: 30% Criminal: 40% Family: 30%

How many cases have you tried to verdict? I have tried roughly 60 trials that were combined bench and jury first and second chair.

Judicial Experience

Do you have any experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution? No
If so, what type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

Percentage of trial experience as a judge related to: N/A Civil Criminal

Judicial Goals

Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.

- 1. Improve the public understanding of the courts.** We should work to establish a website that contains a "one stop" shop of information. This information would contain the credentials of the jurists, their ruling records, judgements, peer reviews, potential conflict of interests and qualifications.
- 2. Help educate and increase access to courts.** The rising costs of litigation is making it more difficult for citizens to bring issues before the court. This includes lengthy discovery obligations and stagnant movement throughout our court system.
- 3. Increase judicial efficiency with a 21-century mindset.** I would advocate that we use zoom hearings and conference calls more frequently to expedite hearing access and reduce high volume court dockets. This will be a benefit not only to the justice system but also reduce cost across the board for the judicial circuit.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role. Serving in the United States Marine Corps taught me honor, courage, and commitment. I bring to the bench patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, punctuality, firmness, understanding, compassion, humility, and common sense. My life experiences are my greatest strengths. One, as a Juvenile, I was arrested nearly eighteen years ago and understand the consequences of bad decisions. I understand that despite "humble beginnings", growing up without my biological father, and being raised in a disenfranchised community we all must be responsible for our actions. However, when appropriate we deserve a second chance. I understand the benefit of accepting responsibility for your actions and working hard to improve yourself and everyone around you. Two, I understand the importance of our constitution and the sacrifices men and woman have made to protect and defend its core principles. Third, I bring a wealth of life experience, humility, and wisdom to the judicial role. The ability to apply the law

equally and fairly requires these traits. Lastly, I am well versed with digital technology and have many ideas on how we can increase efficiency in the justice system.

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

Chairing the 17th Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel helped solidify my understanding of proper judicial temperament. Proper judicial temperament embraces an individual's personality, character traits, upbringing, education, life experiences, work ethics, attitude, and behavior. Proper judicial temperament is required when sitting on the bench and communicating with the public, lawyers, litigants, and colleagues. When one's life experiences or views are narrow in scope it may limit their ability to be open minded, courteous, patient, and free from recognizing biases. Proper temperament is the cornerstone of our judiciary and without it people's belief in fairness, respect, and equality in the justice system will fade. Parties must be provided equal access to justice and be allowed to advocate their position without ridicule, arrogance, and sarcasm among other things.

Political Experience

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? Y

If so, list office(s) and years served. Tamarac, Florida – Planning and Zoning Board Member (Alternate) 2020-Present

Community Experience

Please list professional, community, religious organizations, and social clubs of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years. United States District Court Northern District of Florida; United States District Court Southern District of Florida; Florida Bar Military Affairs Committee; Florida Bar Family Law Committee; American Bar Association; Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter; T.J. Reddick Bar Association; Weston Bar Association; D.W. Perkins Bar Association; Jacksonville Florida Ethics Commission; Broward County Bar Association Board of Directors; 17th Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel; Broward County Bar Association Professionalism Committee' United States American Legion – Post 220 Judge Advocate; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; NAACP; Broward County League of Women Voters; 100 Black Men of Greater Fort Lauderdale; My Future Is Now Mentor-Dillard High School; Ronald McDonald House; William Dandy Middle School Mock Trial Coach; New Mount Olive Baptist Church; St. Jude Children's Hospital; Saving our Youth; Florida Coastal School of Law Alumni Board; Tamarac Planning and Zoning Board

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.

South Florida Business Journal: 2017 Power Leaders in Law & Accounting
Legacy South Florida 2017 40 under 40

List any awards/honors received for community service.

I have received numerous awards and honors for my community service.

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? No If so, explain briefly.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? Yes, if so, explain briefly.

I was arrested nearly 18 years ago for a delinquent act. I accepted responsibility for my actions. The disposition was adjudication withheld. My Juvenile record was automatically expunged.

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy. I bring a unique and diversified background to the bench. I am an experienced trial attorney dedicated to the Constitution. Judges should have honor, courage, and commitment all of which I learned in the military. I am a hard worker and will be dedicated to fulfilling my role on the bench to the highest standards. I am professional, openminded, firm and fair. I have a good reputation with my colleagues and community members. The judiciary must adapt to the 21st century including community representation on the bench, judges with diversified experiences, and proper judicial temperament. If elected I will bring the same commitment, honor, and dedication to the bench as I did as a United States Marine.

**Broward County Presidents' Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses
2020 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**



Candidate's name:

Patti Englander Henning

Seeking Office of:

Broward County Circuit Court Judge

Group #: 18 Incumbent: Yes

Education

List the colleges and law schools you have attended, dates, and degrees awarded.

University of Florida College of Law	JD	1976
Cornell University	BA, Independent Major in International Studies	1974

Legal Experience

How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? Nearly 44 years

Broward Bar? I've been a member of the Broward Bar for decades.

Other states? District of Columbia Bar, 41 years

List your legal employment experience since graduating from law school, including dates employed, your position, and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

1985-present	Circuit Court Judge, 17 th Judicial Circuit of Florida
1981-1984	Broward County Court Judge
1977-1980	Assistant State Attorney, Chief of Appellate Division, Broward County <i>Briefed & argued cases before Broward Circuit Court and Fourth District Court of Appeal, and the FL Supreme Court</i>
1976-1977	Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Appeals Division, State of Florida <i>Briefed & argued cases before the FL Supreme Court, Federal Courts, and all FL District Courts of Appeal</i>

Percentage of litigation as an attorney related to: **Civil:** 15% **Criminal:** 85%

How many cases have you tried to verdict? I have not kept count, but after almost 40 years I can confidently say I've tried hundreds and hundreds to verdict.

Judicial Experience

Do you have any experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution? Yes

If so, what type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

As a County Court Judge for 4 years, I presided over small claims, traffic infractions, misdemeanors (including DUIs), civil cases, and landlord-tenant cases. In fact, over 100,000 cases.

As a Broward County Circuit Court Judge in the criminal division for 6 years, I presided over all felonies from 3rd degree felonies to 1st degree murder, violations of probation, juvenile proceedings, extraditions, and grand jury proceedings.

As a Broward County Circuit Court Judge in the civil division for almost 30 years, I have presided over all general civil matters, including, for example, negligence, contract disputes, construction defects, and divorces. I also presided over foreclosures, probate matters, juvenile proceedings, condemnation proceedings, declaratory judgments, injunctions, and writs of prohibition, mandamus, and habeas corpus, as well as appeals from the County Court.

For the last 8 years or so, I have been a Broward County Circuit Court Judge in the complex civil litigation division, presiding over lengthy and/or multi-party and/or multi-issue and/or complex-issue cases such as medical malpractice, toxic torts, tobacco litigation, asbestos litigation, nursing home litigation, products liability, and class actions. Quite a few are cases with no precedent.

Percentage of trial experience as a judge related to: **Civil:** 75% **Criminal:** 25%

Judicial Goals

Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.

For almost 40 years, what I hoped to accomplish as a judge was to maintain a courtroom where everyone receives—and believes they receive—a day in court presided over by a judge who is knowledgeable about the facts and law of their case, who is willing to truly listen to the presentation of their cause, and who will rule fairly and efficiently without bias or prejudice. I hope those before me will feel, whether they win or lose, that they were able to present their case.

There are two other matters I am working on and hope to accomplish. For the past few years, I have been advocating, especially through local and national legal organizations, to push for legislation that will increase the pay for jurors, particularly in lengthy trials. There is an undue burden placed on jurors, their families, and their employers if there is no increase. Jurors should be paid like the essential court personnel that the pandemic is showing them to be.

The other matter is to help guide the court system through these tumultuous times and take the court system that I know so well and adapt it to what the court system of tomorrow must become. I have already presided over numerous Zoom hearings and am working not only with the Broward County Court system, but also as a Judicial Advisor in the national Civil Jury Project, to envision and establish remote jury trials over Zoom or similar platforms.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role.

I believe my reputation as a fair, patient, prepared, respectful, and unbiased jurist to all who appear before me—whether they be lawyers, litigants, jurors, witnesses, court personnel or members of the general public—is my greatest strength. When the public has confidence in the judiciary, they are more likely to respect the ruling issued by the court when they bring their conflicts for resolution.

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

When I first took the bench, I hoped for the wisdom of Solomon. Not long after, I realized that, more importantly, I needed the patience of Job. A judge must be willing to truly listen to all parties and all sides of a case and know the applicable law before she reaches a decision. She must be respectful of their issues, opinions, and time. She must be able to make everyone feel as comfortable as they can be in the courtroom, however serious the matter that brings them before her. Her demeanor must be such that she maintain her reputation on and off the bench. She must give respect so she can demand respect.

Political Experience

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? No

If so, list office(s) and years served.

Community Experience

Please list professional, community, religious organizations, and social clubs of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years.

The Florida Bar, District of Columbia Bar, Broward County Bar Association, Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges, Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El, Temple Menorah, B'nai Brith Justice Unit (founding member), Homeowners' Association

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.

Over the past four decades I've been honored to receive numerous awards and commendations from legal and civic organizations. Most recently, I am proud to have been named 2018 Judge of the Year by the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

List any awards/honors received for community service.

Jewish Federation of South Broward Award, President's Council of Cornell Women (founding member), numerous "thank you" awards for speaking to students at all grade levels.

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? No **If so, explain briefly.**

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? No **If so, explain briefly.**

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy.

I am proud of the almost 40 years of unblemished judicial service that I have given to our community. I believe my reputation shows that I run an efficient courtroom with the temperament, legal knowledge, impartiality, and experience that every litigant deserves. I have presided over every type of case imaginable and am ready to preside over the unimaginable that these tumultuous times present. Already I am working on the local and national levels to maintain the fundamental principles of our legal system as we attempt to establish jury trials and court proceedings in remote settings. I am prepared to continue my lifetime of service to the court and my community.

**Broward County Presidents’ Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses
2020 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**



Candidate’s name:

Kristin Weisberg Padowitz

Seeking Office of:

Broward County Circuit Court Judge

Group #: 18 Incumbent: No

Education

List the colleges and law schools you have attended, dates, and degrees awarded.

Broome Community College- August 1990-May 1992 Associates Degree
University of North Carolina at Charlotte- August 1992-December 1992 No Degree Awarded
University Central Florida January 1993-December 1994 Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice
Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center- June 1996- May 1999 Juris Doctor

Legal Experience

How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? 21 years Broward Bar? 4 years
Other states? United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida 2017 – present

List your legal employment experience since graduating from law school, including dates employed, your position, and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

Broward County Public Defender’s Office as an Assistant Public Defender - September 1999-November 2000. Duties included defending juveniles in all crimes ranging from life felonies to misdemeanors and finding the resolution for their case that was in their best interest. I also defended juvenile detention hearings and weekend magistrates for adult defendants. I wrote, filed and litigated Motions, took depositions and tried numerous Bench Trials.

Broward County State Attorney’s Office as an Assistant State Attorney- November 2000 – June 2017. Duties included prosecuting adults in all crimes ranging from Capital Sexual Battery to misdemeanors. I approved search warrants and arrest warrants. I filed cases ranging from first degree felonies to misdemeanors. I prosecuted magistrate hearings as well as Arthur Hearings and Fry Hearings. I wrote, filed and litigated Motions, took statements and depositions and tried over 75 Jury Trials.

Law Office of Kenneth Padowitz- July 2017- August 2018. Managing Partner of The Law Office of Kenneth Padowitz. Duties included running the daily business operations as well as defending all crimes. I wrote, filed and litigated motions. I took depositions while preparing cases for trial and then tried them in front of a jury or Judge.

Law Office of Kristin Padowitz, P.A.- August 2018- present. Owner of The Law Office of Kristin Padowitz, P.A.. Duties include running and managing the daily business operations as well as practicing law by writing, filing and litigating Motions. I take depositions while preparing cases for trial and then try them in front of a jury or Judge. My practice has included criminal law, civil practice, probate, guardianship, injunctions and family law.

Percentage of litigation as an attorney related to: Civil 85% Criminal-15%
How many cases have you tried to verdict? Over 100

Judicial Experience

Do you have any experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution?

Yes (alternative dispute resolution)

If so, what type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

I have been involved in various community activities including as an Adjunct Professor that placed me in a position of judging performances. Also, as an Assistant State Attorney and Assistant Public Defender (both in the 17th Judicial Circuit, Broward County) I would negotiate with opposing counsel for the best resolution for my cases. In addition, while in private practice I have been involved in resolving construction disputes/liens between a contractor and his clients and mediation in my family law cases.

Percentage of trial experience as a judge related to: N/A as a judge **Civil** **Criminal**

Judicial Goals

Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.

As a judge, my goal is to give back to my community as a public servant. I believe as a public servant, it is important to be involved with the community not just in the courtroom, but outside of the courtroom as well. My goal is to have the litigants feel like they have been treated fairly, respectfully and have been truly heard. I will make the best decisions for the case at hand, while keeping in mind that everyone in the courtroom is a person with different experiences. I will also get out into the community to help educate the public about the judicial system, answer any questions and listen to the concerns they may have.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role.

Having tried approximately 75 jury trials and numerous bench trials, I have spent 21 years applying the evidence code in the trial setting. As a TRIAL lawyer, I bring extensive trial experience in practicing both criminal and civil litigation, giving me a truly unique and well-rounded perspective. All of this has taught me how to be fair, just and compassionate allowing me to bring humanity into the courtroom while following the law.

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

I believe treating people with fairness, respect, kindness and compassion goes a long way. I believe being respectful of everyone's time is also proper judicial temperament.

Political Experience

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? Yes

If so, list office(s) and years served.

Florida Bar Grievance Committee, 2017 – present

Community Experience

Please list professional, community, religious organizations, and social clubs of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years.

Florida Bar Grievance Committee, 2017 – present

Florida Bench and Bar Committee, 2017

Broward County Women Lawyers Association, 2017 – 2018

TJ Reddick Bar Association, 2017 – 2018

Broward Women's Alliance, 2017 - 2019

Federal Bar Association Broward County Chapter, 2017 - 2018

Weston Bar Association, 2017 – present

Weston Bar Association Board member, 2018-present (Currently Vice President of membership)

United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida- 2017-present

Broward County Bar Association 2016 – present
Broward County Bar Association Professionalism Committee- 2017-present
B'nai B'rith Justice Unit, 2016 – present
State Attorney's Office, Broward County, Seal and Expungement program, 2017
Temple Dor Dorim Weston, Florida 2015-present
League of Women Voters- 2018-present

I have also been involved in a variety of charitable athletic events and volunteered my time helping citizens of Broward County at Broward Outreach Center, Boys and Girls Club of Broward County and judging literacy essay competitions for school aged children.

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.

I was recognized in the State Attorney's Office as the Prosecutor with the highest number of trials in the entire office in one year.

List any awards/honors received for community service.

I was nominated as one of 100 Outstanding Women of Broward County, however, I was unable to accept the nomination due to my candidacy. I was also given an award for my years of service as an Assistant State Attorney to the Citizens of Broward County.

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? No If so, explain briefly.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? No If so, explain briefly.

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy.

My candidacy should be supported because I bring the values, extensive legal background, strong courtroom experience, and ability that will ensure fairness for everyone. I have extensive trial experience and I am prepared to be an outstanding Jurist. I am proud of my reputation as someone who will be fair and just to everyone, and who will treat everyone in the courtroom with respect. In addition, I bring a wide-ranging perspective from my different life experiences.

**Broward County Presidents' Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses
2020 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**



Candidate's name:

Matthew Isaac Destry

Seeking Office of:

Broward County Circuit Court Judge

Group #: 27 Incumbent: No

Education

List the colleges and law schools you have attended, dates, and degrees awarded.

University of Tampa, BS Mathematics, 1985

Stetson University College of Law, JD, 1988

Legal Experience

How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? 31 Years

Broward Bar? I have practiced in Broward for 24 years

Other states? I am not a member of any other state bars

List your legal employment experience since graduating from law school, including dates employed, your position, and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

Assistant State Attorney, 6th Judicial Circuit, Pinellas and Pasco Counties 1988-1996

Prosecuted crimes ranging from misdemeanors to first degree murder

Private Practice in Broward County, 1997-2004

Ran an active practice that handled a variety of cases, both civil and criminal

Asst. Statewide Prosecutor/Sr. Litigation Attorney, Florida Attorney General's Office 2004-2007

Prosecuted RICO and Medicaid Fraud in several Florida jurisdictions

Circuit Court Judge, Broward County 2007-2016

Presided in the Domestic Violence Division over emergency hearings and injunctions

Presided in the Criminal Division handling felonies and related matters

Presided when assigned over Florida Bar and election matters

Private Practice in Broward County, 2017-present

Handling private matters for select clients

Percentage of litigation as an attorney related to: Civil 10% Criminal 90%

How many cases have you tried to verdict?

More than 200 as a lawyer. As a Circuit Judge, I presided over more than 150 cases that were tried to verdict.

Judicial Experience

Do you have any experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution? Yes

If so, what type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

Broward County Circuit Court, Domestic Violence Division 2007 - 2008 (8 months)

Emergency hearings and civil injunctions

Broward County Circuit Court, Criminal Division 2008-2016

Felonies and related matters

Presided when assigned over Florida Bar and election matters

Percentage of trial experience as a judge related to: Civil 10% Criminal 90%

Judicial Goals

Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.

As a public servant, it would be my duty to uphold the Constitution and the law and to ensure that justice is administered fairly.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role.

My background and experience.

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

In my opinion, the hallmarks of good judicial temperament center on one's ability to remain calm and polite regardless of the situation and to treat all who appear before you with respect.

Political Experience

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? No

Community Experience

Please list professional, community, religious organizations, and social clubs of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years.

Broward County Bar Association

Lauderdale Small Boat Club

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.

List any awards/honors received for community service.

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? No

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? No

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy.

I would ask that you consider my education, experience and prior service.



Candidate's name:

Frank David Ledee

Seeking Office of:

17th Circuit Court Judge

Group #: 27 Incumbent: Yes

Education

J.D. Nova University

M.B.A Barry University 1988

B.S. Barry University 1985

Legal Experience

How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? 30+ **Other?**

US District Court for the Southern District of Florida

List your legal employment experience since graduating from law school, including dates employed, your position, and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

Assistant State Attorney:

Chief of the Gang Prosecution Unit; Gun Violence Unit; Commander of the Multi-Agency Gang Strike Force

As a senior member of the State Attorney's management team, Frank Ledee developed and implemented local and national anti-gang strategies, gun violence reduction initiatives, homeland security issues, case filings, litigation strategies, and sentencing issues. He established a prosecutor rapid response team and protocols to support the Florida Department of Law enforcement's Child Abduction Recovery Team and served as the liaison to the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Southern Regional Domestic Security Task Force and Child Abduction Recovery Team for South Florida. He also served as the Liaison and office point of contact for the State Attorney with the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, the United States Justice Department, South Florida High Intensity Drug trafficking Area, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Percentage of litigation as an attorney related to: Civil Criminal 100%

Judicial Experience

What is your experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution? What type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

Judge Frank Ledee has upheld the integrity of the judiciary for over 25 years. Judge Ledee was appointed to the Circuit Court for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida in December 2018 and currently serves in the Unified Family Division.

Percentage of trial experience as a judge related to: Civil Criminal

Judicial Goals

Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.

Judge Frank Ledee is committed to serving our community and enhancing the integrity of the judiciary. Judge Ledee's knowledge, experience, and background provide him with a genuine understanding of the needs of the litigants, attorneys, and witnesses who appear before him. His calm judicial temperament and strong work ethic make him an invaluable member of our judiciary and our community in Broward County.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role.

Judge Ledee has earned a reputation for being a thoughtful caring and hardworking jurist who follows the law. He is knowledgeable and fair and understands the needs of our diverse community. He is accessible, open to contrasting viewpoints and used a common sense approach to problem solving. He is fluent in English, French, Spanish, and Creole and prides himself on his ability to communicate with all those who seek justice in his courtroom.

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

Political Experience

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? Yes

Judge Frank David Ledee was appointed to serve as a Commissioner and Corporate Director for the South Broward Hospital District in July 2016 and served the Memorial Healthcare System with distinction until his appointment to the Circuit Court Bench in November 2018.

Community Experience

Please list professional, community, religious organizations, and social clubs of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years.

Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police
Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, Regional Chair, Violent Crimes
National Association of Corporate Directors
Dade League of Prosecutors
Florida Gang Investigators Association
Regional Organized Crime Information Center
Broward County Bar Association
Caribbean Bar Association
South Broward Bar Association

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.

The LEO Foundation and The Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police 2018 LEO Award
South Florida Police Benevolent Association Presidential Award of Honor 2017
League of Prosecutors' Prosecutor of the Year 2016
Drug Enforcement Administration Certificate of Appreciation 2004
Miami-Dade Police Department General Investigations Unit, Airport District,
Certificate of Appreciation, 2006
William S. Schurr Memorial Award for Excellence in Prosecution 2002

List any awards/honors received for community service.

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? NO

If so, explain briefly.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? NO

If so, explain briefly.

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy.

Broward County Presidents' Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses

2020 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate's name:

Judge Dale C. Cohen

Seeking Office of:

Broward County Circuit Court Judge

Group#: 30 Incumbent: Yes (since 2006)

Education

List the colleges and law schools you have attended, dates, and degrees awarded.

The University of Florida, Bachelor of Business Administration in finance with high honors 6/79-5/83

The University of Florida Levin College of Law, Juris Doctorate 9/83 - 5/86

Legal Experience

How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? 33 yrs Broward Bar? 33 yrs

Other states? none

List your legal employment experience since graduating from law school, including dates employed, your position, and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

- The Broward County State Attorney's Office, felony lead prosecutor, special unit prosecutor, county court supervisor and lead vice prosecutor, 10/1986 – 1/90
- Law Firm of Cohen & Raudt, P.A., partnership practicing in criminal, personal injury and subrogation law, 1990-1992
- Law Offices of Dale C. Cohen, P.A., sole-practitioner practicing in criminal, family and personal injury law, 1992-2004
- Law Firm of Burk & Cohen, P.A., partnership practicing in criminal, family and personal injury law, 2004-2006
- The Honorable Dale C. Cohen Circuit Court Judge for the 17th Judicial Circuit, presiding in dependency, felony and unified family divisions, May 2006 – current
- Broward County Family Collaborative Judge 2019 - current

Percentage of litigation as an attorney related to: 10% Civil 90% Criminal

How many cases have you tried to verdict? Over 200 jury trials

Judicial Experience

Do you have any experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution? Yes

If so, what type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

I am currently the Judicial representative for Broward County for the online Dispute Resolution

I am Broward County's Collaborative Law Judge

Percentage of trial experience as a judge related to: 80% Civil/Family; 20% Criminal

Judicial Goals**Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.**

As a current sitting judge I work to accomplish several goals in the family division. Of utmost importance in a family case is the best interest of the children, and my first concern is protecting children. Next I seek to assist to repair families in crisis. I accomplish these goals by being respectful of all litigants, presiding with fairness and neutrality and applying the laws of Florida to the facts of each case. I keep children safe and help repair families by ordering counseling and other community services when necessary. Cases are then routinely reviewed to maintain the successes of the parties and to move the matter forward on the docket to resolution. I hope to continue running an efficient family division and continue making prompt and thoughtful rulings while respecting all litigants and courtroom personnel as I have for the past 14 years.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role.

While presiding as a judge in Broward County I have always sought to be fair, impartial, honest and respectful on and off the bench. As a trial lawyer for 20 years before taking the bench I had a reputation of being amicable, calm and respectful yet a zealous advocate for my client with a strong knowledge of the law. As a judge I have maintained my ability to be patient, to listen and to respect all litigants and attorneys. I have continued to study the law and apply the law to the facts of each case that comes before me. My strengths in understanding and interpreting the law, my ability to listen and run an efficient courtroom and division is what I bring to my role as a judge and has served me and the people of Broward County well for the past 14 years. Since I bring to the bench a significant number of years of experience as a judge and an attorney I add much needed stability to the judiciary. I apply my experience by assisting new judges. I am well supported by the Family Law Bar of Broward County as many of the lawyers who appear in front of me on a regular basis recognize my ability to be fair, neutral and rule timely.

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

It is not uncommon in family court and domestic violence hearings for the tensions of litigants to run high. Oftentimes litigants will act inappropriately in court and have outbursts as a result of the emotional stress. It is imperative that the judge maintains the courtroom decorum, stay calm and decrease the tension in the courtroom. A judge must never get involved in the outbursts, become angry and disturbed and must never “jump over the bench” to confront the litigants. A judge’s job is to maintain the courtroom decorum and his temperament at all times.

Judges must maintain a fair and neutral temperament, be impartial, patient and respectful of all litigants and courtroom personnel. I believe that judges must also be good communicators in that they are called upon to listen to others and to explain their rulings.

Political Experience

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? No

Community Experience

Please list professional, community, religious organizations, and social clubs of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years.

As judges we try to avoid any appearance of impartiality by joining and participating in organizations and club.

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.

AV rated Attorney by Martindale Hubell

Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer

Florida Superlawyer

List any awards/honors received for community service.

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? Yes If so, explain briefly.

In 2009 I was disciplined by the Florida Supreme Court for holding a hearing where a lawyer requested that I disqualify myself from a case. I granted his motion but held a 5 minute hearing on the matter as he was claiming in his motion that there was an argument between him and my wife. I intended to simply clear the air at the time. It was my understanding that I could legally and ethically hold that hearing based on caselaw and a class I took at Judicial College three years prior when I became a judge. I was incorrect and the action violated the judicial ethics canons. In the Court's ruling they issued a reprimand and stated that although I had violated the canons that I had a reputation as a smart and conscientious judge, that I would not repeat the action as it was a one time incident. Since that time I have served Broward County with no further ethical violations. I regretted my actions that day and apologized at the time.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? No

If so, explain briefly.

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy.

Voters should look at the past 14 years where I have served the county as their judge. I have presided over tens of thousands of cases ranging from felony criminal cases, domestic violence cases dependency matters and family cases in the Circuit Court. I was recently appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to serve on the ethics board for mediators. I am the only Broward County Collaborative Judge. I have attended almost yearly education programs and judicial training and conferences over the past 14 years. I will continue to utilize this training and education to apply to my work for the people of Broward County. Litigants and lawyers support my re-election because I am recognized as a fair and impartial judge with a good work ethic, a calm demeanor and many years of experience. I would be honored to be re-elected to the bench and to continue serving the people of Broward County.

**Broward County Presidents' Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses
2020 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**



Candidate's name:

Ian Richards

Seeking Office of:

17th Judicial Circuit Court

Group #: 30

Incumbent: No

Education:

List the colleges and Law schools you have attended dates, and degrees awarded:

Florida International University Bachelor 1994-1999 University of
Miami School of Law Juris Doctor 1999-2002

Legal Experience:

How long have you been a member of:

Florida Bar? 18 years
Broward Bar? 2 years
Federal Bar? 6 years

Percentage of Litigation as an attorney related to: Civil: 70% Criminal: 30%

How many cases have you tried to verdict? 50+ cases taken to trial

Judicial Experience

Do you have any experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution?

Yes

If so, what type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

Domestic violence court: DV cases, mental health cases, drug addiction cases, and temporary injunction orders

Back up Felony Court: felony cases, temporary injunction orders,

Traffic Court: traffic injury cases involving fatalities

County Civil Court: civil cases under \$15,000, evictions

Bond Court: juvenile cases, all criminal bond cases

Percentage of trial Experience as a judge related to: Civil: 30% Criminal: 70%

Judicial Goals:

Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.

I hope to make people's lives better with fair and timely decisions focused on individual needs and the law.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role: Fair, unbiased, and a good listener

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

Judges must first listen to everyone involved and make a measured response under difficult emotional circumstances. Sometime this requires a pause in court proceeding to allow cooler heads to prevail. Judges are human beings with emotions like everyone else, but judges should strive to remain calm and fair to all.

Political Experience:

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? Yes. I served as the President of Cottages at University Park Homeowners association from 2003 to 2008

Community Experience

Mentor at Parkway Middle school Students of Tomorrow Mentoring Program, Advocate for Children with Special Needs, former Rotary Club Member, former Vice-President of Mentoring with a Father's Heart, former President of Cottages at University Park Homeowner Association, local gospel choir member

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek. N/A

List any award/honors received for community service.

Honored by Parkway Middle School Students of Tomorrow Mentoring Program for Mentoring, Alpha Kappa Sorority, Legacy Magazines, Zeta Youth Summit, Hot105 Radio ("trailblazer"), and Bethel A.M.E Church

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or Local Bar? No

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? No

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy.

My name is Ian Richards and I am humbly asking for your support. I have over 18 years of experience as a judge, assistant state attorney, and as a private attorney. I understand the personal and legal issues facing our community and I will bring fresh ideas to old problems in our system. I have and I will continue to do my best to make sure everyone is listened to and respected. I am humbly asking for your vote because I believe in compassion, fairness, and justice.

**Broward County Presidents' Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses
2020 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**



Candidate's name:

Linda A. Alley

Seeking Office of:

Broward County Circuit Judge

Group 50: Incumbent: No

Education

List the colleges and law schools you have attended, dates, and degrees awarded.

- 1973: Graduated Broward College with an AA with honors;
- 1988: Completed Paralegal Program at Broward College;
- 1994: Graduated Florida Atlantic University with a BA in history with honors;
- 1998: Graduated from University of Florida Levin College of Law with honors.

Legal Experience

**How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? 21+ years Broward Bar? 21+ years
Other states? None**

List your legal employment experience since graduating from law school, including dates employed, your position, and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

08/01/1998 to 04/08/2016:

Law Firm: Sheldon J. Schlesinger, P.A.
1212 SE 3 Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Position: Lawyer

Responsibilities: Draft legal documents; research the law; argue motions; try cases; mediate cases. My role was not limited in any way, I did everything required of a lawyer in the firm.

04/15/2016 to 01/06/17:

Law Firm: Lawlor, White & Murphey, LLP
2211 Davie Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Position: Lawyer

Responsibilities: Medical case intake and evaluation.

01/30/2017 to present:

Law Firm: Kelley | Uustal
500 North Federal Highway
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Position: Lawyer

Responsibilities: Case intake and evaluation; draft legal documents; research the law; argue motions; try cases; mediate cases. My role is not limited in any way, I do everything required of a lawyer in the firm.

Percentage of litigation as an attorney related to: Civil: 100% Criminal: 0%

How many cases have you tried to verdict? 16.

Judicial Experience

Do you have any experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution? No

If so, what type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

Percentage of trial experience as a judge related to: Civil: 0% Criminal: 0%

Judicial Goals

Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.

I hope to bring community respect to the courtroom; to further educate the young lawyers who come before me; to let the litigants who come to my courtroom know that it is not a place of fear, but of help and assistance. I hope to make the courtroom accessible to all people.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role.

I have extensive courtroom experience, including trials and hearings. I tried numerous complex civil cases. I will fulfill my judicial duties with integrity so as to instill respect for the process and the bench to those who come before me. I am a great organizer and I will use that skill to run my courtroom smoothly.

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

A judge should be even tempered at all times. A judge must be impartial and should never favor one side over the other or appear to do so. A judge should always be aware of the respect that is owed to the bench and should show the litigants and citizens the same respect in return. A judge should be beyond reproach in fulfilling the court's obligations and responsibilities.

Political Experience

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? No.

If so, list office(s) and years served.

Community Experience

Please list professional, community, religious organizations, and social clubs of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years.

- Florida Bar
- Broward County Bar Association
- American Association of Justice (AAJ)
- Women Trial Lawyers Caucus of the AAJ
- Florida Association of Justice (FJA)
- Women Trial Lawyers Caucus of the FJA
- Broward County Trial Lawyers Association – President in 2012
- Broward County Women Lawyers' Association
- Florida Association of Women Lawyers

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.

None.

List any awards/honors received for community service.

None.

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? No If so, explain briefly.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? Yes. If so, explain briefly.

When I was about 16, I was detained for shoplifting. I am not sure if I was arrested. The officer called my parents and they came and took me home. My parents told me that I did not have a record and I did not have to put it down on employment applications.

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy.

I work hard. I work smart. I will devote myself to my position. I will not let anything get in the way of fulfilling my duties to the utmost of my abilities. I have never held a job where I accepted anything less than the best I could do. Being a judge will not be any different. I will make Broward County proud that they elected me to the bench.

**Broward County Presidents' Council of Democratic Clubs and Caucuses
2020 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire**



Candidate's name:

Vegina "Gina" Hawkins

Seeking Office of:

Broward County Circuit Judge

Group #: 50

Incumbent: Yes

Education

List the colleges and law schools you have attended, dates, and degrees awarded.

The Florida State University

Aug 90- May 95, B.S. Communications

Nova University Law School

June 2001-May 2004, Juris Doctorate

Legal Experience

How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? **16yrs** Broward Bar? **7 yrs** Other states? **0**

List your legal employment experience since graduating from law school, including dates employed, your position, and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

Office of the State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Assistant State Attorney, Homicide Trial Unit

January 2013- Current

Responsible for representing the State of Florida in criminal homicide cases pending in the 17th Judicial Circuit. Responsible for reviewing police reports and physical evidence, victim counseling trial preparation, and caseload management. Primarily responsible for presenting criminal cases against defendants accused of the Homicidal death of another before a Grand Jury, Circuit Judge, and trial Jury.

Law Office of Vegina Hawkins, LLC, Hollywood, Florida

Attorney/Owner

January 2011-January 2013

Responsible for owning and operating a small law office as sole-practioner. Specializing in the following areas of practice: Wills and Probate, Civil Litigation, and Family Law. Responsible for intake, file organization, drafting and filing pleadings, consultations, mediations, hearings, and trials. Also responsible for handling general business affairs to include, accounting, book keeping, billing, etc.

Law Office of David Stern, P.A., Plantation, Florida

Foreclosure Attorney

October 2009-November 2011

Responsible for reviewing Promissory Notes, Mortgages, and other loan documents in connection with pending foreclosure cases. Responded to discovery, drafted pleadings and judgments, conducted legal research, and attended general foreclosure hearings.

Office of the State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Assistant State Attorney

February 2008- October 2009

Responsible for caseload management, file review, and trial preparation. Also responsible for case management, intake, and review of initial police reports and other evidence in order to determine the appropriate charges that should be filed in an indictment.

Information, according to the law. Responsible for determining the legal validity and viability of charges, and reviewing files for accuracy in charging documents.

Law Office of Rozier and Mildenerger, P.A., West Palm Beach, Florida

Of-Counsel Attorney

July 2007- February 2008

Responsible for attending hearings, client intakes, file review and organization, drafting pleadings, etc. Assisted the firm in legal matters for the South Broward area.

Office of the State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Assistant State Attorney

February 2005- March 2007

Responsible for representing the State of Florida in criminal cases pending in the 17th Judicial Circuit. Responsible for reviewing police reports and physical evidence, victim counseling and trial preparation, and caseload management. Primarily responsible for presenting criminal cases to a jury in both County and Circuit Court.

Percentage of litigation as an attorney related to: (approx.) Civil 30 Criminal 70

How many cases have you tried to verdict? 55-66 (approx.)

Judicial Experience

Do you have any experience as a judge or conducting alternative dispute resolution? Yes

If so, what type of cases have you presided over? Specify court(s) or forums, number of years.

Percentage of trial experience as a judge related to: Civil 100 % Criminal

Judicial Goals

Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.

I hope to be afforded the opportunity to continue to serve the community where I was born and raised, and continue in the effort of being fair, patient, timely, and hard-working. I am committed to the balanced and unbiased administration of justice that will be in accord with the law and rendered with dignity and respect for all parties.

Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role.

In addition to the experience already gained as a judge, I bring extensive experience as a civil and criminal litigator who has worked in both the private and the public sectors. I have handled cases in multiple counties throughout the State of Florida, have maintained a law practice as a sole practitioner, with extensive experience in both Criminal and Civil cases. I have an appreciation for the needs of litigants and attorneys both as an attorney and as a judge, and also the needs of the community in which I serve. Ultimately, it is my upbringing and career experiences that have fostered these strengths: organized, balanced, committed, authentic, and resilient, fair, and a good listener.

Briefly describe your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

Proper judicial temperament includes the ability to professional and integral in the administration of the law. It is being patient, kind, and understanding to all parties and those around you. It is the ability to compassionate toward the needs and feelings of others, while remaining steadfast in the duty to uphold the law and rule according to that law and the facts and evidence before you.

Political Experience

Have you ever held any non-judicial elected or appointed public offices? No

Community Experience

Please list professional, community, religious organizations, and social clubs of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years.

Koinonia Worship Center
L.E.A.D. Nation
Fathers M.I.A.
TJ Reddick
Gwen S. Cherry
Federalist Society
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
NAACP

Personal

List any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.

Women of Color Empowerment Institute, Inc. "Justice for All" Gavel recipient - 2018
Honoree/Guest Speaker, Miami Dade Corrections Academy Graduation Ceremony- 2018
City of Deerfield Beach Keynote Speaker, "Blue Flame Award" - 2019
Certificate of Appreciation, FBI Southern Region Guest Panelist-Black Leaders Event- 2019
"Building Relationships in the Community",
Ambassador Seventh Day Adventist Church Honoree- 2019
"Super Star" Award, Deerfield Beach Boys and Girls Night Out- 2019
"Here I am, Still Standing" Youth Extravaganza, The Wright Hands Mentoring Group
Guest Panelist/Honor Recipient – 2019

List any awards/honors received for community service.

Legacy Magazine's Most Influential and Prominent Women in Business and Leadership Recipient
2015
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, Recognition for Outstanding Dedication in Community Service,
2018
Participation Award, "Broward's Legal Firsts" 2018
Certificate of Appreciation- Guest Speaker, "Pearls, Pumps, and Purple", Domestic Violence
Awareness 2015
Certificate of Honor, Resident Lecturer, Fathers M.I.A., "The Healing Circle" 2018

Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? No If so, explain briefly.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? No If so, explain briefly.

SUMMARY: Briefly explain why voters should support your candidacy.

I am committed to the administration of fair Justice and upholding the law in a fair and respectful manner. I am Authentic. I seek truth, and I am truthful. I am both Resilient and Respectful. I am a hard-worker, and am no stranger to fulfilling tasks before me, no matter how great. I endeavor to always treat others with kindness and grace. I am Energetic and am constantly striving for Excellence. I believe the citizens of Broward deserve the best and I work hard to give my best. I am a Servant...seeking to extend help to all those I encounter regardless of race, religion, economic status, gender, or sexual orientation. I am a Judge who C.A.R.E.S.