

Florida Bar
Judicial Candidate Voluntary Self-Disclosure Statement
Overview

Through the Judicial Candidate Voluntary Self-Disclosure Statement, The Florida Bar provides judicial candidates, both sitting judges and others, with the opportunity to provide information about themselves and their backgrounds to the public in preparation and anticipation of an election. **The Florida Bar does not attest to the accuracy of the content of the voluntary self-disclosure statements, although each candidate must execute the statement under oath, nor should the disclosures be viewed as endorsements by The Florida Bar.** The self-disclosure statement is intended to give all candidates the opportunity to share information about their history, credentials, and other relevant information, with the voting public.

The self-disclosure statement was developed to provide a means by which the public could gather information about their judicial candidates. It came to the attention of the Bar that voters felt they did not have sufficient information to make educated decisions on judicial candidates.

In the self-disclosure statement, judicial candidates can provide biographical information including education, work history, special honors or awards, community involvement, public service, and other historical data. The candidate is also allowed to provide a brief statement about why a voter should support that individual and why he or she would make a good judge.

Candidates' statements are governed by Canon 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct. The code bars judicial candidates from making statements that appear to commit them on legal issues likely to come before them in court. The Canons also specify that a candidate may not knowingly make misleading or untruthful statements and require that each candidate execute a statement that the candidate has read and understands the obligations of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct. Candidates who violate Canon 7 are subject to discipline.

The information collected from candidates in the voluntary self-disclosure statement will be made available to the press. The information about local candidates may also be made available to the public, provided to local bar organizations, and may be made available at courthouses, post offices, and voting stations throughout the state. The information will also be available online at The Florida Bar's Web site and can be obtained upon request to the Bar.

FLORIDA BAR
JUDICIAL CANDIDATE
VOLUNTARY SELF-DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

***PLEASE BEAR IN MIND YOUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER JUDICIAL CANON NO. 7
IN PROVIDING ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.***

***THE FLORIDA BAR DOES NOT ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ANSWERS NOR WILL THE
BAR MAKE EDITS TO YOUR ANSWERS TO COMPORT WITH THE CANONS. THE BAR DOES RESERVE
THE RIGHT TO REDACT OBSCENE LANGUAGE BEFORE DISSEMINATION.***

Name: Bruce A. Leinback

Date Disclosure Statement Completed: 06/14/10

Judicial Position Sought: Circuit Judge, 2nd Judicial Circuit, Group 9

Jurisdiction: Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Leon and Wakulla Counties

Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Date Admitted
Florida	1976
District of Columbia	1979

Florida Bar No. 219691

Years admitted to practice law: 33

Years in the legal profession: 33

Prior Candidacy in Judicial Election(s):

If you have run in an election for judicial office before, please list the position, court, and relevant date(s):

Court	Relevant Dates	Position

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Prior and/or Current Judicial Experience:

If you have held judicial office, please state the Courts involved, the dates of service, and the Court:

Court	Relevant Dates	Office

Number of evidentiary hearings, trials and/or oral arguments over which you have presided:

0-5 6-15 16-30 31-50 51-100 101-200 201+

Additional comments: _____

Please identify the number of jury trials _____ and the number of bench trials _____ over which you have presided.

Additional comments: _____

Current judges may respond to the following questions regarding legal practice only with reference to pre-judicial legal experience.

Area(s) of Practice:

Civil Criminal Government Other _____

Please list the primary areas in which you have specialized or have legal expertise and allocate a percentage of your practice to each area.

Family Law- 60%; Labor and Employment- 10%; Administrative and Government Law- 10%; Construction Law- 10%; General Civil Litigation- 10%

Number of evidentiary hearings, trials and/or oral arguments in which you have participated as legal counsel:

0-5 6-15 16-30 31-50 51-100 101-200 201+

Additional comments: _____

Please identify the number of jury trials 2 and the number of bench trials 40+ in which you have participated.

Additional comments: Many of the trials were multi-day trials involving expert witnesses and hundreds of pages of exhibits. _____

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Number of arbitration hearings in which you have participated as legal counsel or hearing officer:

0-5 6-15 16-30 31-50 51-100 101-200 201+

Additional comments: _____

Number of administrative hearings in which you have participated as legal counsel or hearing officer:

0-5 6-15 16-30 31-50 51-100 101-200 201+

Additional comments: One of those was a 30 day Federal Labor Relations Arbitration at the Panama Canal.

To the extent applicable, please quantify any additional alternative dispute resolution/negotiation experience:

I have been involved in hundreds of negotiations and/or mediations in a wide range of disputes including: union contract negotiations; negotiations with the Republic of Panama on agreements to implement the Panama Canal Treaty; land use and commercial disputes; and family law matters.

Have you ever been Board Certified in any area(s) of practice, if yes please identify:

The Area(s) of Practice: _____

When you were certified in each Area of Practice: _____

Whether you are currently certified in those areas: _____

Please provide the percentage of your practice that has involved representing plaintiffs 50% and the percentage that has involved representing defendants 50%.

Undergraduate Education:

Name of Institution: The Florida State University

Degree received/Major: B.A. - History

Academic awards, recognitions, honors, leadership roles and participation in academic organizations:

Omicron Delta Kappa; FSU Gold Key; FSU Board of Student Publications; FSU Coordinator, Gadsden County Tutorial Program; Army ROTC

Law School Education:

Name of Institution: The Florida State University College of Law

Degree received: J.D.

Internships/in-school clerkships, academic awards, recognitions, honors, leadership roles and participation in academic organizations (e.g., law review, moot court, legal clinics):

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Law Review Notes and Comments Editor; Phi Delta Phi; Legal Intern, Public Employees Relations Commission

Number of hours devoted to public work while in undergraduate 300+ or law school _____.

Additional Educational History (if applicable):

Name of Institution	Degree Received	Special awards, recognitions, honors, or leadership roles (if any)

Employment:

Present employer: Self

Number of years with present employer: 2.5

Present position: Attorney

Explain relevant experience or skills gained that you will bring to the bench:

The ability and willingness to listen to people; experience in separating truth from fiction and reality from perception, in order to determine the facts in cases; knowledge of the law; experience in many different areas of the law; and an ability to write clearly.

List All Prior Employers and Occupations, Legal or Non-legal, for the Last Ten Years:

Employer: Bird and Leinback

Number of years employed with this employer: 7.5

Position/specialty: Attorney

Explain relevant experience or skills gained that you will bring to the bench:

See above.

Employer: _____

Number of years employed with this employer: _____

Position/specialty: _____

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Explain relevant experience or skills gained that you will bring to the bench:

Employer: _____

Number of years employed with this employer: _____

Position/specialty: _____

Explain relevant experience or skills gained that you will bring to the bench:

Law Organizations:

Please list legal organizations in which you have been an active member for more than two (2) years and all legal organizations in which you hold a leadership position or which required nomination to join:

Organization Name	Dates of Participation	Office Held (If applicable)
American Bar Foundation	2008-present	Fellow
The William H. Stafford American Inn of Court	2002-present	Treasurer
American Bar Association	1998-present	
Jefferson County Bar Association	1985-present	
District of Columbia Bar	1979-present	
Florida Bar	1976-present	

Honors and Publications:

Please list any published articles or books that you have authored, any speeches or lectures you have given, and any honors, prizes or awards you have received:

Title	Date	Additional Information
"Family Law - Relocation"	June 10, 2010	Lecture presented to Tallahassee Paralegal Association

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<p>Rotary International - Paul Harris Fellow Second Level</p> <p>Family Law Course</p> <p>"Working with Divorce Clients and Opposing Counsel "</p>	<p>June 18, 2010</p> <p>Spring Semester 2009</p> <p>2007</p>	<p>Award</p> <p>Adjunct Professor- Florida State University College of Law</p> <p>Lecture to Florida Paralegals with written materials- Tallahassee, FL. Half Moon LLC.</p>
<p>Rotary International - Paul Harris Fellow</p> <p>"Initial Considerations in Family Law Cases: Family Law in Florida"</p>	<p>2004</p> <p>January 30, 2003</p>	<p>Award</p> <p>Lecture to Florida Lawyers with written materials-Tallahassee, FL. National Business Institute</p>
<p>"Covenants Not to Compete in Florida"</p> <p>"What Kind of Cases Plaintiff Attorneys Take"</p> <p>"Avoiding Costly Retaliation Claims"</p>	<p>October 11, 2000</p> <p>September 15, 1999</p> <p>1997</p>	<p>Lecture to Florida lawyers and business executives with written materials- Tallahassee, FL. Lorman Education Services</p> <p>Lecture to Florida lawyers and business executives with written materials- Tallahassee, FL. Personnel Law Update 1997, Council on Education in Management</p> <p>Lecture to Florida lawyers and business executives with written materials- Tallahassee, FL. Council on Education in Management</p>

Public Service – Pro Bono, Volunteer Work or Military Service:

Please provide the dates, activities and any special accomplishments, honors or leadership roles you have played in volunteer, public or military service organizations or in providing pro bono, volunteer, public or military service:

1st Lieutenant, U.S. Army: 1970-1972 (U.S. and Vietnam)

Monticello Opera House - Secretary, Board of Directors: 1990-1994

Jefferson County Historical Association - Vice President: 2006-present

Adjunct Professor, Florida State University College of Law: Spring semester 2009 (Family Law)

President, Tallahassee Northside Rotary Club: 2001-2002

Brotherhood of Christ Church - Men's Outreach: fundraising for community outreach, and participation in community volunteer projects

Volunteer, Hurricane Katrina Relief - Mississippi Gulf Coast

Represented many indigent and working poor clients on a pro bono basis: 1983-present

Health:

Do you currently suffer from or have you suffered from any of the following ailments in the last three years:

- Dependence on narcotics, drugs or intoxicating beverages
- Pathological or compulsive behavior
- Memory loss or impaired judgment

Yes No

If yes, please identify the ailment and provide full details, including the relevant dates, including dates of diagnosis, if applicable, the treatment received and any additional relevant information:

Discipline:

If you have ever been found, either involuntarily or by consent, to have committed a violation of The Florida Bar Disciplinary Rules, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration or the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct for which the discipline imposed was one of the following: (a) public reprimand; (b) suspension; or (c) disbarment, please provide the following information:

Date of charge: NA

Date of Disposition: _____

Rule(s) found to have violated: _____

Discipline imposed for rule violation(s): _____

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Date reinstated to the Bar or bench: _____

Any conditions imposed for reinstatement (e.g., disgorgement, probation or public service):

If you have been found to have committed a violation of the ethical or discipline rules, please explain the circumstances surrounding your discipline:

NA

For current or former judges:

Has the Florida Supreme Court, or a similar body in another state, ever rules against you on a Notice of Formal Charges by the Judicial Qualifications Commission? If so, please explain the circumstances surrounding the charges and include a description of any discipline imposed:

NA

Military Discharge:

If you served in the military and your discharge was anything other than honorable or you received a court martial, please provide that information here:

NA

Criminal Convictions:

Have you ever been convicted or pled no contest to a crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude? If so, provide the following information:

Date of Conviction or Plea of No Contest: NA _____

Crime for which you were convicted or Pled No Contest: _____

Sentence: _____

Any additional conditions imposed: _____

If you have been convicted or pled no contest to a crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude and would like to explain the circumstances surrounding your criminal conviction, you may do so here:

NA

Personal Statement:

In 100 words or less, without discussing any particular issue which may come before you if you become a judge, explain why you believe you would be a good judge:

An independent judiciary is essential to preserving our American way of life. Everyone who comes before a judge must be assured that the judge is not beholden to any political or special interests and that they will be listened to and receive a fair trial.

I will bring to the bench a passionate belief in the integrity and independence of the judiciary, a profound respect for our American legal system, 33 years of experience as a lawyer, a record of service to my country, my community, and the legal profession, along with a sense of fairness and the ability to listen.
