

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: Kathryn Marie Welsh

Date Disclosure Statement Completed: June 7, 2010

Judicial Position Sought: Circuit Court Judge, Group 18

Jurisdiction: Sixth Judicial Circuit

Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Date Admitted
Florida Bar	1988
United States District Court, Middle District, Florida	1988

Florida Bar No. 0752576

Years admitted to practice law: 22

Years in the legal profession: 22

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
n/a		

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
n/a		

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.

domestic relations (dissolution, support, adoption, paternity, etc.) - 38%

bankruptcy - 16%

contracts (litigation of contracts and account stated actions, drafting contracts) - 14%

construction law (including recording construction liens, collection of accounts and lien foreclosure) - 14%

Foreclosures and foreclosure defense - 8%

real property (partition, landlord tenant actions, transactions, contract drafting) - 7%

miscellaneous civil (negligence, conversion, appeals, injunction, interpleader, writs of replevin, declaratory judgments, wills, etc.) - 3%

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 0 and the number of bench trials 70 in which you have participated.

I am defining a "trial" as substantially preparing a case for presentation to the trier of fact and the taking of testimony and offering of evidence in an adversarial proceeding actually submitted to the trier of fact. This is the definition for the Marital and Family Law Certification application. I am using this definition because, often, in Family Law, there will be a temporary hearing which is substantially the same as a final hearing on certain temporary issues but the case never proceeds to a contested final hearing. I did not include uncontested final hearings in the calculation as this would probably amount to over 1,000 bench trials. This amount is estimated based upon a review of the calendar and files for the last eight years. I do not have records prior to 2002.

Additional comments: _____

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: This amount is estimated based upon a review of the calendar and files for the last eight years. I do not have records prior to 2002. This amount includes pretrial hearings. _____

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: This answer reflects the number of times I have served as a special master for the Value Adjustment Board _____

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

I have been a Supreme Court Certified Family Law Mediator since 1998. From September 9, 2005 to present, I have handled 371 mediations. I do not have records prior to this date. _____

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

The Area(s) of Practice: Marital and Family Law

When you were certified in each Area of Practice: 2009

Whether you are currently certified in those areas: yes

Please provide the percentage of your practice that has involved representing plaintiffs 70 (includes bankruptcy clients and family law petitioners) % and the percentage that has involved representing defendants 30 %.

Undergraduate Education:

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Name of Institution: Wake Forest University

Degree received/Major: B.A. Psychology

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

cannot remember leadership roles and participation in academic organizations

Law School Education:

Name of Institution: Stetson University College of Law

Degree received: Juris Doctor

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

co-editor of school newspaper

Number of hours devoted to public work while in undergraduate cannot remember or law school cannot remember.

Additional Educational History (if applicable):

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

Employment:

Present employer: Kathryn Marie Welsh, P.A.

Number of years with present employer: 21

Present position: sole practioner

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

If elected Judge, I will employ my compassion for the family, my dedication to and knowledge of the law, my commitment to the community, my experiences as a litigation attorney, my experiences as a transactional attorney, my experiences as mediator, my experiences as arbitrator, my experiences as special master and my experiences as

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a business owner when making judicial decisions.

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

Employer: n/a

Number of years employed with this employer: _____

Position/specialty: _____

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

Employer: n/a

Number of years employed with this employer: _____

Position/specialty: _____

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)
Canakaris Inn of Court	2001 to present	president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer
Clearwater Bar Association	2002 to present may have been a member	

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	prior to 2000 but the data bases does not go back that far	
St. Petersburg Bar Association	2010, and 1991 to 1999	

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

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:

Recent volunteer activities include Community Law Program in 2010, Pro bono services directly to needy individuals and families 1989 to present, Guardian ad litem services 2006 and 2007, Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity in 2008, and volunteer time for West Pinellas Little League from 2005 to 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:

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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: n/a

Date of Disposition: _____

Rule(s) found to have violated: _____

Discipline imposed for rule violation(s): _____

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:

n/a

For current or former judges:

Has the Florida Supreme Court, or a similar body in another state, ever ruled 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:

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:

n/a

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: n/a

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:

n/a

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:

My twenty-two years as a litigation attorney has provided me the knowledge to decide complex legal issues. My mediation experience has trained me to be a problem solver who is capable of resolving high conflict cases. My arbitration and special master experience has exposed me to many of the responsibilities facing a Judge. My demonstrated commitment to the community and the family provides me with compassion, an essential skill of the judiciary. Most importantly, I have the common sense and temperament necessary to make courteous, fair, and unbiased rulings which uphold and safeguard the legal rights of our community.
