

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: Keith Meyer

Date Disclosure Statement Completed: 6-15-10

Judicial Position Sought: Circuit Court Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Pasco/Pinellas, Group 27

Jurisdiction: Sixth Judicial Circuit, Pasco/Pinellas

Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Date Admitted
State of Florida	9/11/00

Florida Bar No. 414875

Years admitted to practice law: 10 years as of September 11, 2010

Years in the legal profession: including legal jobs in Law School, approximately 13

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.

Over the years I have practiced primarily in the following areas: criminal prosecution, civil litigation (defense and plaintiff), estates/wills, criminal defense. Currently I would estimate that that 80% of my practice is civil/criminal litigation and 20% is estates/wills/probatet.

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+

As an Assistant State Attorney I maintained a full case load in both the misdemeanor and felony divisions. During my years in private practice I have continued to maintain primary responsibility for many clients and both civil and criminal in nature on a daily basis. Throughout the course of my career, I have been the primary attorney in many adversarial evidentiary hearings, bond hearings, changes of plea hearings, dispositive motion hearings, injunction

Additional comments: _____
hearings, oral arguments, and trials, among other types of proceedings.

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Please identify the number of jury trials 30 and the number of bench trials see below in which you have participated.

I have documented that I have served as lead counsel in 21 of 30 jury trials during my career. I have served as lead counsel in jury trials as both a prosecutor and defense attorney. These jury trials have included charges of Attempted First Degree Murder with a Firearm, Kidnapping, Armed Carjacking, Robbery, Lewd and Lascivious Molestation, Narcotics Trafficking and DUI.

Additional comments: I have also participated in many non jury trials over the years.

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: I have participated in many administrative hearings as legal counsel in private practice.

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

I have represented clients in many alternative dispute resolution settings including civil mediations and criminal plea bargaining negotiations.

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 40% and the percentage that has involved representing defendants 60%.

Undergraduate Education:

Name of Institution: Florida State University

Degree received/Major: B.A. - History

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

Graduated Cum Laude, Scholarship Chairman of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, Golden Key National Honor Society, Florida Academic Scholarship Recipient, FSU Honors Program graduate

Law School Education:

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Name of Institution: University of Florida

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):

Internship/in-school clerkship with Alachua County State Attorney's Office; summer clerkships with Clearwater Bar Association/Pro Bono program and Pinellas County State Attorney's Office

Number of hours devoted to public work while in undergraduate many through civic service/fraternity or law school many through clerkship with pro bono program.

Additional Educational History (if applicable):

Name of Institution	Degree Received	Special awards, recognitions, honors, or leadership roles (if any)
Clearwater High School	H.S. Diploma	Honors Graduate, President of National Honor Society, Varsity Letterman in multiple sports

Employment:

Present employer: Tinny, Meyer & Piccarreto, P.A.

Number of years with present employer: 5 1/2

Present position: Founding Shareholder/Attorney

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

Extensive Courtroom experience, motion practice and jury trials, experience representing clients in criminal matters, general civil, estates/wills/probate and other matters, ability to manage high case load, ability to manage day to day operations of business and staff, ability to effectively communicate and deal with individuals going through extremely stressful situations

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

Employer: Buckley and Fudge, P.A.

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Number of years employed with this employer: 1 and 1/2

Position/specialty: Associate Attorney

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

Extensive civil courtroom litigation experience, represented clients in complex liability matters involving large damage claims, ability to manage high case load, ability to manage and work with staff

Employer: State Attorney, Sixth Judicial Circuit (Pasco/Pinellas)

Number of years employed with this employer: 3 +

Position/specialty: Assistant State Attorney

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

Extensive Courtroom and Jury Trial Experience, Lead Trial Attorney responsible for management of other attorneys, experience managing high case load, experience in investigating/charging complex criminal matters, primary duty warrant attorney (selected for duty after hours to receive emergency calls from law enforcement officials, provide advice and take legal action for State Attorney)

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)
Clearwater Bar Association	2000-Present	Past Member Board of Directors
Barney Masterson Inn of Court	2000-Present	Past President, Executive Director and CLE Coordinator
St. Petersburg Bar Association	2005-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
Florida Bar Association	2000-Present	

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:

I received recognition from the Supreme Court of Florida for outstanding pro bono service in 2009 and I have provided pro bono legal services throughout my career. I was an unpaid clerk for the Clearwater Bar Association/Foundation pro bono legal program during the summer following my first year of law school. During my time as an Assistant State Attorney, I participated as a volunteer in numerous legal outreach programs including teen court and Clearwater Bar Young Lawyers Division projects (Holidays in January, backpack program for Highpoint area children, volunteer proctor for Florida Bar Exam). Since leaving the State Attorney's Office and entering private practice, I have represented numerous individuals, privately, on a pro bono basis. I have also accepted pro-bono cases/clients from Gulfcoast Legal Services in civil matters. I have also provided pro bono legal services in criminal and civil matters to clients through various programs supported by the Clearwater Bar, St. Pete Bar, Gulfcoast and Community Law Programs. These programs include the mid-town St. Petersburg free legal clinic, the north Greenwood Clearwater free legal clinic and Homeless Court. I have been a Panelist for the Clearwater People's Law School for several years. I am currently a member of the on call pro bono attorney list to represent domestic violence victims at injunction hearings through the Community Law Program and Gulfcoast Legal Services. I am a member of the Pinellas County Law Library Board of Trustees.

I have also been actively involved with civic/volunteer organizations outside of the legal profession including:

- Rotary Club of Clearwater, Past Member of Board of Directors, Past Co-Chair of Major Fundraiser (2005-Present)
- Religious Community Services, (RCS), North Pinellas County, (multifaith charitable organization providing food bank, shelter for victims of domestic violence, and transitional housing for homeless families) Current Member Board of Directors, Past Vice-Chairman (2003-Present)
- Skip Cline Society (Affiliated with Morton Plant Hospital Foundation), Clearwater, Member Board of Directors, Co-Chair of Education Committee (2005-Present)
- Leadership Pinellas, 2008-Present, Member of Criminal Justice Day Planning Committee

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: 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:

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:

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:

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:

I am fortunate to have a wide and deep range of experience in our circuit courts and our community. My courtroom experience and record of service to my community has given me the balance, temperament and skills required to serve well as a circuit court judge. If elected, I will strive to fairly and effectively resolve cases in a timely matter and I will work to ensure that people enter my courtroom knowing that they will be treated with respect and that the rule of law will be upheld without bias or prejudice.
