

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: MONICA GORDO

Date Disclosure Statement Completed: July 14, 2010

Judicial Position Sought: CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Jurisdiction: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Date Admitted
Florida Bar	August 1999

Florida Bar No. 180807

Years admitted to practice law: 10 years and 11 months

Years in the legal profession: 13 years

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		

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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
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.

I have been an Assistant State Attorney for the last 11 years handling cases ranging from misdemeanor crimes to death penalty cases.

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 52 and the number of bench trials 57 in which you have participated.

Additional comments: _____

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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: _____

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

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 100 % and the percentage that has involved representing defendants _____ %.

Undergraduate Education:

Name of Institution: University of Miami

Degree received/Major: Bachelor of Business Administration

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

President's Honor Roll (3 consecutive semesters), Graduated Magna Cum Laude, Best Buddies Coordinator/Mentor

Law School Education:

Name of Institution: University of Miami School 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):

Graduated Cum Laude, Entertainment & Sports Law Review, Hispanic Law Students Association Chairperson, Internship for the Honorable Donald Graham (United States District Court), Internship with C. Morales, Esq. (Family Law Division) & Internship with Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office (Felony Division).

Number of hours devoted to public work while in undergraduate 20 hours per semester or law school 3 semesters of 15 to 20 hours per week.

Additional Educational History (if applicable):

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

Employment:

Present employer: Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office

Number of years with present employer: Approximately 11

Present position: Gang Strike Force Special Prosecutor

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

I am currently an Assistant State Attorney in the Gang Strike Force. My practice involves assisting State and Federal investigators in prosecuting Racketeering & Organized Crime cases against some of Miami's most violent gangs. Specifically, once the investigators have identified a gang under the statutory criteria, they document the members and their activities. As a case develops, they ask me for legal guidance in the building of their case. It is my job to ensure they do not violate anyone's constitutional rights during the investigatory process. In assisting them, I often provide subpoenas, draft court orders for cellphone tracking, prepare Search Warrants and Arrest Warrants. While I am still in Court daily, much more of my litigation since I have been in the Gang Strike Force is motion practice. I also intermitently serve as an "on call" homicide and police shooting legal advisor to various police departments throughout the County. In that role, my duty is to respond in person to all homicides and/or any shootings where an officer has discharged a firearm to offer legal support and guidance to investigators. While on the scene, I am often present for next-of-kin notifications and the Medical Examiner's preliminary examination of the body.

Aside from providing investigators legal assistance, I also handle litigation on these cases since their inception. This involves critically interviewing each potential witness prior to filing the case, preparing all discovery and potential Brady material that must be turned over and presenting the State's evidence at any preliminary or Arthur Hearings. I also often assist defense attorneys in order to facilitate the taking of depositions and litigate all pretrial motions that may be dispositive of the cases in preparation for trial.

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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: _____

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)
Cuban American Bar	Member since 2001	BOARD OF DIRECTOR since 2006
League of Prosecutors	Member since 2005	BOARD OF DIRECTOR since 2006, VICE PRESIDENT & SECRETARY
University of Miami Law School Alumni	Member since 2008	BOARD OF DIRECTOR: Present

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Association		
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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
"Justice for All Award"	April, 2010	Awarded by the Attorney General's Office & the Coral Gables Police Department for Outstanding Contribution to Victims of Crime
Prosecutor of the Quarter	January 2010	Awarded by the Miami-Dade County Joint Chiefs of Police for legal contributions in the Sherdavia Jenkins case
CABA Board of Director's Award	January 2010	In recognition for our dedication

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:

As an Assistant State Attorney, I am not permitted to perform Pro Bono legal work because of conflicts of interest that may arise. However, I do serve in Community Projects and give back to the community as often as possible. For many years, I have volunteered at "Hands on Miami Day" and for the last few years I have served at "Servis Juris." Also, I am involved in many ProBono Projects to raise money thru my role as a Board of Director of the Cuban American Bar Association. Last year, while I served as a Board of Director, our organization was presented with the Florida Bar's Award for Outstanding ProBono Project. CABA's Pro Bono project is responsible for providing hundreds of members in the community, who cannot otherwise afford legal representation, with a competent attorney that will help them with their legal needs.

As a Chair of the Community Liason for the Cuban American Bar Association, I worked with the Haitian Bar Association to have attorneys attend Saturday events where we assisted Haitian earthquake victims to fill out their TPS (temporary protective status) documentation for the Department of Homeland Security.

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:

N/A

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:

N/A

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:

N/A

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:

Serving the community as a Judge would be the highest honor anyone in the legal profession can obtain. My experience as a committed public servant, wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend have taught me many valuable lessons I believe will always keep me humble, even tempered and willing to learn from others.

If elected, I will always strive to uphold the Constitutional rights of each and every citizen that comes before me with the utmost professionalism and attention to the highest standard of ethics. I will also carefully scrutinize each legal decision with unwavering attention to following the law at every juncture of my decision-making process.
