

**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: Jeffrey S. O'Brien

Date Disclosure Statement Completed: June 17, 2010

Judicial Position Sought: Circuit Judge, Group 27

Jurisdiction: Sixth Judicial Circuit Court

Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Date Admitted
All Florida State Courts	1972

Florida Bar No. 0153353

Years admitted to practice law: 37+

Years in the legal profession: 37+

*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
Not applicable		

*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
Not Applicable		

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.

Approximately 95% civil trial litigation; approximately 5% in miscellaneous legal matters

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: I do not have accurate records. This is an estimate. I have met all requirements to be and have been Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Florida Bar for the last 26+ years

Please identify the number of jury trials \_\_\_\_\_ and the number of bench trials \_\_\_\_\_ in which you have participated.

Additional comments: I do not have accurate records but have participated in many jury and non-jury trials and I have met all requirements to be and have been Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Florida Bar for the last 26+ years, a distinction held by less than 2% of the members of the Florida Bar.

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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: I do not have accurate records but I have participated in many arbitrations, both as counsel for a party and as an arbitrator.

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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:

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

I was a Board Certified Mediator and have mediated many cases as such. I have also been involved in many mediations of cases in which I represented a litigant and, otherwise, have negotiated many, many settlements of civil cases.

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

The Area(s) of Practice: Civil Trial Law, Mediation

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When you were certified in each Area of Practice: Civil Trial Law (1983); Mediation (1994)

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Whether you are currently certified in those areas: Still Board Certified in Civil Trial Law; no longer certified in Mediation

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

*Undergraduate Education:*

Name of Institution: University of South Florida

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Degree received/Major: BA - Business

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

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*Law School Education:*

Name of Institution: University of Florida

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Degree received: Juris Doctorate

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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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Number of hours devoted to public work while in undergraduate \_\_\_\_\_ 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: Jeffrey S. O'Brien, P.A.

Number of years with present employer: 17

Present position: President

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

37+ years of experience as a circuit court civil trial lawyer; 26+ years as a Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer; 20 + years as an AV rated attorney by Martindale Hubbell

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

Employer: Jeffrey S. O'Brien, P.A., attorney

Number of years employed with this employer: 17

Position/specialty: Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer, President and Stockholder

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

37+ years of experience as a circuit court civil trial lawyer; 26+ years as a Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer; 20 + years as an AV rated attorney by Martindale Hubbell

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:

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Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years employed with this employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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*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)
Florida Justice Association/Academy of Florida Trail Lawyer	Since at least the early 1980's to date	
Formerly National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel; Pinellas County Trial Lawyers; Southeastern Electrical Exchange; Florida Defense Lawyers Association	Do not recall the dates	

*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:

I previously served as the President of my homeowners association in the 1980's, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Cross Bayou Little League and I currently and for the last several years have served as the Chairman of the City of Seminole's Personnel Board.

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*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:

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*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: Not Applicable

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):

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

Not applicable

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*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:

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*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:

Not applicable

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*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: Not Applicable

Crime for which you were convicted or Pled No Contest: Not applicable

Sentence: Not applicable

Any additional conditions imposed: Not applicable

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:

Not applicable

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*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 will bring a proper judicial demeanor and a wealth of experience and wisdom to the bench, having been engaged in civil trial litigation in the Circuit Courts of Florida for over 37 years; having been trained by and litigated with and against some of the best civil trial lawyers in Florida; having been among the charter class of Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial lawyers in 1983 and having maintained that distinction, that fewer than 2% of Florida lawyers have attained, for over 26 years and having maintained Martindale Hubbell's highest rating of AV for over 20 years.

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