

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: Robert Kuntz

Date Disclosure Statement Completed: 7-1-2010

Judicial Position Sought: Circuit Court Judge, Eleventh Circuit, Group 62

Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Date Admitted
Florida	1996
Southern District of Florida	1996
Middle District of Florida	1996
Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals	1996

Florida Bar No. 94668

Years admitted to practice law: 14

Years in the legal profession: 14 (plus 2.5 as a law clerk for various firms)

*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 Family, domestic violence, immigration,

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

My paid practice is commercial litigation. Clients are businesses and business owners and have included a wide range of industries including aviation, shipping, trucking, construction, lending, manufacturing, and gaming. For those clients I have handled all manner of business disputes - including torts, contract claims, class actions, and product liability - at every stage, from pre-suit negotiations, through discovery, trials in state and federal trial courts, and to appeal. My practice has an emphasis on aviation. Disputes include contract and business tort claims, fraud and fraud-like torts, some white collar criminal matters, and the breakup of closely held businesses. I represent individuals pro bono in family and domestic violence matters, and have done pro bono representation in immigration and for a large community festival.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please identify the number of jury trials 2 and the number of bench trials 4 (2 civil, 2 immigration)  
in which you have participated.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

I have participated in perhaps two dozen civil mediations and numberless settlement 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 50% and the  
percentage that has involved representing defendants 50%.

*Undergraduate Education:*

Name of Institution: University of Cincinnati, graduated 1982

Degree received/Major: B.S. in biology; certificated minor in journalism

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

*Law School Education:*

Name of Institution: University of Miami School of Law

Degree received: JD, 1996

Internships/in-school clerkships, academic awards, recognitions, honors, leadership roles and participation in academic  
\_\_\_\_\_

organizations (e.g., law review, moot court, legal clinics):

Graduated summa cum laude, 6<sup>th</sup> in a class of 340, Dean's Fellow, Paul B. Anton Scholar, Law Review

Number of hours devoted to public work while in undergraduate ~ 100 or law school ~60.

*Additional Educational History (if applicable):*

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

*Employment:*

Present employer: Devine Goodman Rasco & Wells PA

Number of years with present employer: 8+

Present position: Partner

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

I am a second career lawyer, who came to the practice of law after a career in journalism. As an observer and participant in the justice system for more than 25 years, I bring a perspective and experience that is unique. I have not been so long a lawyer that I have forgotten what the system looks like to those whom it is intended to serve, neither lawyers nor judges, but the people themselves. I am a transplant to this community, but I came here precisely because of the kind of community it is and my roots here now run very deep – through my wife’s family, through my professional and community relationships. Especially in a community with the unique challenges and opportunities we face, I am committed to the notion that our courts can and should be a beacon and refuge to all those who are privileged to live here and all those who struggle to make it here.

The litigants and the lawyers who come into court deserve to be treated with dignity, and real respect. They deserve to have court start on time, for the judge to be prepared for the day's business, for the judge to keep order. They deserve for the judge to know his own preconceptions and to either put them aside or step aside. They deserve a judge without contempt for mercy and with a surfeit of compassion. They deserve a judge who shares enough common experience with them to understand their lives, or at least to know when he doesn't so that he can educate himself. They deserve a judge resolute enough to make the tough call, to impose strong measures or condign sentences, to DECIDE. They deserve a judge who cares about justice more than about keeping the job. (If you cannot make a decision that will lose you the next election, then don't put on the robe to begin with.) They deserve a judge with a servant's heart.

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In any given court case, there may winners and losers, but no matter the outcome, it is the judge's job to ensure that every person who leaves that courtroom will leave with the sense that they have been treated fairly and have seen justice done.

My wide experience as a journalist – both covering the courts and in more general areas such as crime, business and community reporting – has equipped me to quickly, frankly and uncompromisingly assess the facts before me, to spot gaps or inconsistencies in those facts, and to have an ear for all sides of a story or dispute. Moreover, I had the privilege to meet and report on people from every imaginable walk of life -- from heads of state to serial killers; from some of the wealthiest people in the world, to some of the most impoverished. It gave me a heart for and understanding of people. My experience in ecclesiastical justice has given me a keen sense for the real meaning of due process and ultimate fairness in decision-making. I have both large- and small-firm legal experience and I have handled matters ranging in value from small claims court to more than one hundred million dollars, so I have seen all manner – and quality – of legal practices and know how to differentiate them.

I have traveled throughout the Caribbean and Central America, for leisure and to do relief work, and I know what a country without a reliable, trusted and working judicial system looks like. I know from first hand experience how precious our sometimes flawed and frustrating system is, how vital it is to the wellbeing of every person of every station.

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

Employer: Devine Goodman Rasco & Wells PA

Number of years employed with this employer: 8+

Position/specialty: Attorney/Partner

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

Please refer to previous responses

Employer: Holland + Knight LLP

Number of years employed with this employer: 6.5

Position/specialty: Attorney/Associate

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

Please refer to previous responses

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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:

\_\_\_\_\_

*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)
Dade County Bar Association	1996 - present	
American Bar Association	1996 - present	
Dade County Defense Bar Association	~2000 - present	board member, Past President
Florida Association of Women Lawyers	2008 - present	
Cuban American Bar Association	2008 - present	
Eleventh Judicial Circuit Historical Society	~2000 - present	Board member

*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
This would not be possible. I was a working journalist for 11 years and wrote articles for publication nearly every day. Recently I completed an article for the journal of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Historical Society, "The Lynching of Ruben Stacey," Eleventh Judicial Magazine, Vol. 2 Issue 1, Spring 2008		

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<p>I have frequently acted as moderator for various panel discussions, including those conducted by the Eleventh Judicial Historical Society of the Historical Museum of South Florida, and for the Dade County Defense Bar Association. These have included panel discussions on: The Role of the Chief Judge; African Americans and the Law in South Florida; Hispanics and the Law in South Florida; Judicial Practice for Young Lawyers. I have also given a presentation on the use of Expert Witnesses in Aviation Cases at the New York City Bar Association. In addition, I frequently give a talk entitled "How to Hire and Manage a Lawyer: Tips for Small Business," to Rotary, Kiwanis and similar groups.</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:

I am a frequent volunteer laborer for Habitat for Humanity and have also traveled overseas to do relief and reconstruction work. I did various pro bono work including extensive representation of indigent immigrants facing deportation to Haiti (1999 to 2001); I was pro bono general counsel to OpSail 2000, the largest ever convocation of tall ships and a festival attended by more than 500,000 visitors. (I received a Public Service Commendation from the United States Coast Guard for this work.) I also organized, ran and promoted an outreach to inner city preschool children for Reading is Fundamental at the Head Start program at Greater Bethel AME Church; I regularly provide pro bono legal services to my church and to its members; I gave occasional legal assistance to H&K staff members involved in post-dissolution divorce proceedings; I have provided pro bono criminal defense for minor offenses on two occasions. I am presently handling an enforcement/modification of child support matter pro bono. I more or less always have a representation going on for a petitioner seeking injunction in a domestic violence case.

*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):  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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:

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:

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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:

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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:

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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 seek this position out of a desire to serve people who come into the daunting, even terrifying, world of the courts on the worst day of their lives. They are in trouble, or their family is, or their business is. They have faith that, when they get to court, there is going to be someone there to listen to them, to have compassion, to be smart enough and work hard enough to "get it right," while treating every person with the dignity they deserve. I want to vindicate that faith every day I serve on the bench.

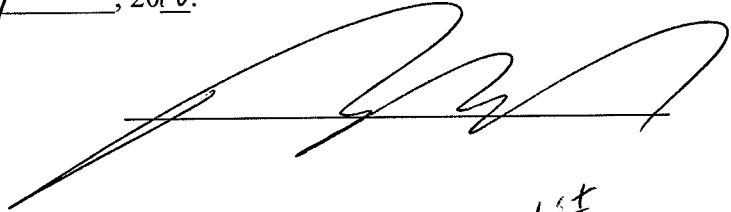
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Please mail the notarized Certification to Doris Maffei, The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300. The Florida Bar Judicial Candidate Voluntary Self-Disclosure Statement cannot be posted on the Bar's website without receipt of the notarized Certification.

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the information given on The Florida Bar Judicial Candidate Voluntary Self-Disclosure Statement is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

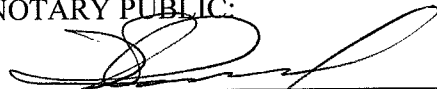
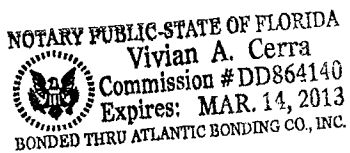
Executed this 1 day of July, 2010.



The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2010 by Robert Kuntz, who is personally known to me, or has produced his/her      driver's license, or his/her      NA (type of identification) as identification.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2010

NOTARY PUBLIC:

  
(Signature of Notary Public)

Vivian Cerra  
(Printed Name of Notary Public)

STATE OF FLORIDA AT LARGE

(SEAL)

My commission expires: