

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: Don Holmes

Date Disclosure Statement Completed: 7/16/2010

Judicial Position Sought: Circuit Judge

Jurisdiction: 7th Judicial Circuit, Group 10

Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Date Admitted
Florida Supreme Court	November 19, 1976
United States District Court, Middle District of Florida	November 17, 1978 (lapsed sometime early 2000's) Re-admission December 19, 2008

Florida Bar No. 0219169

Years admitted to practice law: 34

Years in the legal profession: 34

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.

Currently - Criminal 20%; Family Law 10%; General Civil 30%; Government 30%; Land Use 10%

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 140+ and the number of bench trials 75+ 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 of 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: No

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: Chipola Junior College; Florida State University

Degree received/Major: Associates of Arts Degree; Bachelor of Science (Finance)

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

Law School Education:

Name of Institution: Florida State 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):

"Cum Laude" designation from College of Law; Law Clerk with Tallahassee firm of Pennington, Wilkinson & Sauls; Administrative Assistant, State Representative Robert Hector; Intern, Office of the State Attorney (7th Circuit)

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Number of hours devoted to public work while in undergraduate unknown or law school unknown.

Additional Educational History (if applicable):

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

Employment:

Present employer: Donald E. Holmes, P.A.

Number of years with present employer: 8 years

Present position: Attorney/Sole Practitioner

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

I presently represent two municipalities, one governmental agency, various businesses and private citizens in a wide variety of legal matters including, but not limited to, family law, land use law, criminal law, real estate, contract law, municipal law, and general civil litigation. My practice has been similarly diverse since I entered private practice after leaving the position of Assistant State Attorney in 1983. My experience has not only exposed me to many different legal issues but has also impressed upon me the impact which a Circuit Judge and our courts have on the lives of the average citizen and the importance of making certain that every citizen exposed to the Court system can leave the system believing that he or she was treated with respect and fairness.

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

Employer: Holmes & Pickens, P.A.

Number of years employed with this employer: 10 years

Position/specialty: Attorney/Partner

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

see answer above

Employer: _____

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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)
Putnam County Bar Association	1976 to date	Past President

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

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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:

My principal pro bono client for approximately ten years has been the Rodeheaver's Boy's Ranch, a privately funded local facility which serves as home to approximately fifty young people whose circumstances make it advisable for them to reside somewhere other than their "home". I perform all legal work and provide all legal advice required by the Ranch on a pro bono basis. Within the last year alone, my services have included representation in an estate administration involving a decedent who had named the Ranch as beneficiary of his entire estate and providing advice on a routine basis to the Ranch Executive Director regarding personnel issues and matters of potential liability. In addition, I provide services on a pro bono basis to clients who can't afford same on a "case by case" basis but don't document same.

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: None _____

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:

None

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:

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: Never convicted or pled no contest to any criminal offense - 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 believe that the knowledge and perspective gained by me through thirty-four years of experience in competently handling a wide range of legal matters while serving in several different roles within the legal field, and, a genuine desire to honor the office by constantly striving to treat every person who comes before me with respect and fairness would enable me to perform the duties of a Circuit Judge in a way that would uphold the credibility of the justice system and preserve the public's confidence in it . . .
