

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: Edward Liebling

Date Disclosure Statement Completed: June 11, 2010

Judicial Position Sought: Circuit Court Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Group 18

Jurisdiction: Sixth Judicial Circuit

Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Date Admitted
United States Supreme Court	2001
Florida	1988
Michigan	1988
Federal 11 th Circuit Court of Appeals	1988
Federal Middle District of Florida	1989

Florida Bar No. 0768472

Years admitted to practice law: 22

Years in the legal profession: 22

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

Five years of Government service with the Pinellas-Pasco Public Defender's Office in Dade City and New Port Richey (1988-1993). In private practice since 1993, I have accepted court appointed capital/death penalty and other felony cases. I have also accepted federal felony case court appointments including representation in federal appellate cases. I have also practiced in the area of personal injury law.

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 75% of my overall practice is criminal trial law defense. The remaining 25% has been devoted to civil practice representing plaintiffs in personal injury claims and other general civil 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: Over the course of 22 years and approximately thousands of criminal cases and other civil cases, lead counsel in 14 first degree murder cases, state and federal court and appellate matters, and matters related to jury trial work, my experience includes motions regarding admissibility of _____

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evidence, probable cause determinations, adversary preliminary hearings, determination of death as a possible penalty, sentencing hearings, competency to proceed hearings, extradition matters, bail and bond hearings, probation violations, restitution hearings, juvenile matters, examining and working with expert testimony, taking of depositions, appeals, post trial and judgment hearings, petitions to seal and expunge, etc.

Please identify the number of jury trials 91 and the number of bench trials 3 non-jury trials and hundreds of hearings as described above in which you have participated.

Additional comments: Please see additional comments above.

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: Represented clients before the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles.

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

I have negotiated thousands of agreements with prosecuting authorities in the course of my criminal practice. I have also represented plaintiffs in numerous personal injury matters and civil litigation cases that resolved without jury trial.

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

The Area(s) of Practice: Criminal Trial Law

When you were certified in each Area of Practice: 1995

Whether you are currently certified in those areas: Yes

Please provide the percentage of your practice that has involved representing plaintiffs approx. 25% civil practice representing plaintiffs in personal injury claims % and the percentage that has involved representing defendants approx. 75 in criminal trial law defense %.

Undergraduate Education:

Name of Institution: United States International University

Johnson & Wales College

Degree received/Major: Bachelor of Science (Hotel and Restaurant Management)

Associate in Science (Culinary Arts)

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

Deans list honors 1981 and 1982

Law School Education:

Name of Institution: Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Degree received: Juris Doctorate

Internships/in-school clerkships, academic awards, recognitions, honors, leadership roles and participation in academic organizations (*e.g.*, law review, moot court, legal clinics):

In law school, I volunteered to assist indigent persons regarding landlord and tenant disputes; granted exclusive written interview of sitting Governor of Michigan, James Blanchard (interview published in the Student Bar Association News); member, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity.

Number of hours devoted to public work while in undergraduate approx. 50 or law school approx. 50.

Additional Educational History (if applicable):

Name of Institution	Degree Received	Special awards, recognitions, honors, or leadership roles (if any)
United States International University	Master of International Business Administration	

Employment:

Present employer: Self employed in private practice.

Number of years with present employer: Self employed for 17 years

Present position: attorney, sole practitioner

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

Continuous courtroom and jury trial experience since 1988; Board Certification since 1995; ability to handle exceptionally large caseloads and complex litigation; successful business owner; experience with hundreds of jurors, many judges, civil and criminal defense attorneys, prosecutors in state and federal court, witnesses, victims

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and their families; experience in civil, criminal, state, federal, and appellate matters.

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

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:

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)

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
Please see additional information at right.	2003 to present	I have accepted requests to speak as a guest lecturer at St. Petersburg College and for the Legal Responsibility for New Adults program/LawDay High School Speakers Program.

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 have provided legal services to others without compensation. I have volunteered for my community homeowners association and held positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Director. I am a charitable contributor to such causes as Oldsmar Little League, Tarpon Springs High School Baseball Boosters, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue, Palm Harbor Public Library, Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise, Friends of the NRA, Knights of Columbus, Anti-Defamation League, Temple Ahavat Shalom.

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:

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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: _____

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 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:

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:

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: _____

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 Board Certified in Criminal Trial Law with 22 years of continuous courtroom experience in criminal and civil law, in Florida and federal courts, including 91 jury trials, 15 first degree murder cases, and appellate cases. I know the importance of courtroom etiquette and decorum.

I have learned the lessons of discipline, hard work, and fiscal responsibility. I am mortgage and debt free. I would strive for judicial economy and efficient use of taxpayer funds.

I also have worked as a line cook, waited tables, washed dishes, delivered furniture, and was a fitness instructor, and appreciate a working person's concerns.
