

RICHARD A. LAZZARA

RICHARD A. LAZZARA was born in Tampa, Florida, on December 17, 1945. He is married and has one child. He graduated magna cum laude from Loyola University of the South in 1967 with a B.A. degree in History. At Loyola he was elected to membership in Alpha Sigma Nu and Delta Epsilon Sigma National Honor Scholastic Societies, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and National Blue Key Honor Fraternity. He received his J.D. degree from the University of Florida College of Law in 1970 where he was elected to membership in Florida Blue Key Honor Fraternity and Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Fraternity.

Judge Lazzara served as an Assistant County Solicitor and as Assistant State Attorney for Hillsborough County from 1970 through 1973. He then entered the private practice of law in Tampa until his election to the Hillsborough County Court in 1986. In 1987 Governor Martinez appointed him to the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit and he was elected to a full term without opposition in 1988. In 1993 Governor Chiles appointed him to the Second District Court of Appeal where he served through October of 1997. On November 1, 1997, Judge Lazzara was sworn in as a United States District Judge where he continues to serve in the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division.

While in private practice Judge Lazzara served as a member of the Criminal Law and Law Day Committees of the Hillsborough County Bar Association. He also served as a member of one of the Florida Bar's Grievance Committees. As a Judge he was the recipient of the Robert S. Patton award for Most Outstanding Jurist for 1991-1992 given by the Young Lawyer's Section of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and was recognized by the Ybor City Optimist Club with its "Respect for the Law" award in 1993. In polls conducted by the Hillsborough County Bar Association he received the highest approval rating for judicial candidates in 1986 and the highest approval rating for sitting judges in 1987 and 1993.

Judge Lazzara has lectured at various continuing legal education seminars sponsored by The Florida Bar, The Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, The Hillsborough County Bar Association, The Hillsborough County Criminal Defense Lawyers' Association, The American Judicature Society, The Defense Research and Trial Lawyers' Association, and the Judicial Assistants Association of Florida.

Judge Lazzara is currently a member of The Florida Bar, The Hillsborough County Bar Association, and the Ferguson-White Inn of Court.