

**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 EDIT YOUR ANSWERS TO COMPORT WITH THE CANONS.**

Name: James Wesley Chandler

Date disclosure statement completed: June 12, 2018

Judicial position sought: Circuit Court Judge for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit

Jurisdiction: Twentieth Judicial Circuit

Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Date Admitted
State of Colorado	May 24, 2004
District of Columbia	May 6, 2005

Florida Bar No. 0753971

Years admitted to practice law: 14

Years in the legal profession: 16

**Personal Statement:**

In 100 words or less, without discussing any particular issue that may come before you as a judge, explain why you believe you would be a good judge:

I have the experience and persona that is conducive to being a judge. I am asked all the time why I want to be a judge? The answer is because I have been told by multiple people that I have the correct demeanor for it. I am not running to fulfill a dream, etc. I am running because I was asked to run because I would make a good judge, honest and fair.

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**Prior Candidacy in Judicial Election(s):**

If you have run in an election for judicial office before, please list the court, relevant date(s) and position:

Court	Relevant Dates	Position
None	None	None

**Prior and/or Current Judicial Experience:**

If you have held judicial office, please state the Courts involved, the dates of service, and the office:

Court	Relevant Dates	Office
None	None	None

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 provide 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 Criminal, Family, Delinquency, Dependency, Injunctions, Adoptions

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

I practice Criminal (State and Federal) (30%), Family Law (50%), Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency (15%), Adoptions, and some appellate work (5%).

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 provide the number of jury trials 60+ and the number of bench trials 100+ 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:

Administrative hearings mostly consist of DHSMV and Florida Department of Revenue matters.

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

I have resolved hundreds of cases in mediation (mostly in Family Law, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights 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:

No

When you were certified in each area of practice:

N/A

Whether you are currently certified in those areas:

N/A

Please provide the percentage of your practice that has involved representing plaintiffs 30 % and the percentage that has involved representing defendants 70 %.

**Undergraduate Education:**

Name of institution:

West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia

Degree received/major:

B.S. in Journalism (Public Relations), minor in English

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

Gamma Beta Phi Society  
WVU Presidents Leadership Award

**Law School Education:**

Name of institution: University of Denver, College of Law

Degree received: J.D.

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

Number of hours devoted to public work while in undergraduate 60 or law school 40.

**Additional Educational History (if applicable):**

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

**Employment:**

Present employer: Law Office of James W. Chandler, P.A.

Number of years with present employer: 6+

Present position: Attorney at Law/Owner

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

I have been involved with a wide array of practice areas. My practice is very unique. I am highly involved in a lot of court proceedings. I have been fortunate in my years of practice to handle matters that most attorney rarely, or never get to see. For example, I have litigated multiple Hauge Convention matters, many Federal Cases, been both a petitioner and respondent in Termination of Parental Rights matters, etc. These cases allow you to work, possibly in opposition in one case with another party or organization, and work cooperatively in other matters.

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

Employer: Agoston & Chandler, P.A.

Number of years employed with this employer: 2

Position/specialty: Attorney/Partner

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

Employer: Law Office of David T. Agoston, P.A.

Number of years employed with this employer: 2

Position/specialty: Associate Attorney

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

Employer: Office of the State Attorney

Number of years employed with this employer: 3 +

Position/specialty: Assistant State Attorney

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

As a former prosecutor, you understand a criminal case from both sides. You understand the difficulties prosecutors work with and the inter-workings of their office, as well as the inter-workings and preparation to defend a criminal case.

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**Law Organizations:**

Please list legal organizations in which you have been an active member for more than two 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)
Collier County Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers	2009-2017	President Vice-President Treasurer
Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers	2009-present	None
Collier County Bar Association Lee County Bar Association	2005-present 2017-present	None None

**Honors and Publications:**

Please list relevant published articles or books that you have authored, speeches or lectures you have given, and honors, prizes or awards you have received:

Title	Date	Additional Information
None	None	None

**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:

President, Reflection Lakes at Naples Condo Association, (March 2007- June 2012),  
Volunteer, Ave Maria Board of Visitors Mentor Program,  
Volunteer, Collier County Teen Court, (2005-2018)  
Volunteer, Alumni Admissions Council, University of Denver,  
Volunteer, Collier County High School Mock Trial Competition (judge, and past team advisor), (2006-2018)  
Volunteer, Ave Maria School of Law Moot Court Competition,  
Volunteer, Meals of Hope Holiday Meal Program (2017)  
Volunteer, LCBA Foundation Golf Tournament (2018)  
Volunteer, organized beach cleanups through Project AWARE  
Volunteer, Keep Collier Beautiful (2017)

**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: None

Rule(s) found to have violated: None

Discipline imposed for rule violation(s): None

Date reinstated to the Bar or bench: None

Any conditions imposed for reinstatement (e.g., financial penalty, probation or public service):

None



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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:

None

**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: None

Crime for which you were convicted or pled no contest: None

Sentence: None

Any additional conditions imposed: None

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:

None

**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 12 day of June, 2018.

Name James W. Chandler

Certification Confirmation (must be checked prior to submission):