

**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: Michael D. Nieman

Date disclosure statement completed: June 17, 2018

Judicial position sought: County Judge Group 2

Jurisdiction: Collier County

Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice law:

Jurisdiction	Date Admitted
Florida	April 14, 2009
Michigan and New York	May 17, 2002 and March 28, 2001

Florida Bar No. 64028

Years admitted to practice law: 17

Years in the legal profession: 18

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 am a seasoned trial attorney having made thousands of courtroom appearances and litigated more than 50 jury trials. I have been practicing law for nearly 18 years and 15 of those as a litigator in the courtroom. I have the necessary trial experience, understanding of the rules of evidence, courtroom procedure, and the law required to be a member of the judiciary. I have also demonstrated a commitment to public service, ethics, and the rule of law. Further, in my current role as Compliance Counsel with the County Manager in Collier County, I am part of the executive leadership team overseeing the County's compliance program. My extensive courtroom skills and senior management experience have prepared me for this challenging position. In addition to the experience, I possess the character, integrity, and humility required to be a successful judge. Finally, I have experience in every aspect of a County Judge's jurisdiction including criminal law, traffic citations, civil, and landlord-tenant matters.

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

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

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 _____⁰ and the number of bench trials _____⁰ 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

FLORIDA BAR JUDICIAL CANDIDATE
VOLUNTARY SELF-DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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

Criminal Law (Prosecution and Defense): 90%
Government 5%
Family Law 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:

Bench trials include traffic hearings as a prosecutor in Michigan. Evidentiary hearings include preliminary examinations as a prosecutor in Michigan.

Please provide the number of jury trials Approx. 50+ and the number of bench trials Approx. 200 in which you have participated.

Additional comments:

Please see 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 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:

FLORIDA BAR JUDICIAL CANDIDATE
VOLUNTARY SELF-DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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 90 % and the percentage that has involved representing defendants 10 %.

Undergraduate Education:

Name of institution:

American University

Degree received/major:

B.A. Political Science

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

Law School Education:

Name of institution: New York Law School

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):

Legal Intern: Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, National Republican Senatorial Committee, New York City Campaign Finance Board.

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

Additional Educational History (if applicable):

Name of Institution	Degree Received	Special awards, recognitions, honors, or leadership roles (if any)
Eastern Michigan University	None	
Michigan Technological University	None	Football Team

Employment:

Present employer: Collier County Government - Office of the County Manager

Number of years with present employer: Approx. 3

Present position: Compliance Counsel

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

As part of the executive leadership team, I will bring leadership skills and senior management experience to the bench. Both will assist me to manage courtroom personnel, litigants, attorneys, jurors and most importantly the dockets.

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

Employer: Klaus Doupe PA - Nieman Law Office PA

Number of years employed with this employer: 5 months - 1 year and 6 months

Position/specialty: Associate/Family Law - Owner/Criminal Law

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

Litigation skills and knowledge of the rules of evidence and rules of civil procedure.

Employer: Florida Attorney General Office of Statewide Prosecution

Number of years employed with this employer: 2 years and 8 months

Position/specialty: Assistant Statewide Prosecutor/Criminal Law (prosecution)

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

Litigation skills and knowledge of the rules of evidence and rules of criminal procedure. Trial experience and knowledge of courtroom procedure.

Employer: State Attorney's Office - 20th Judicial Circuit

Number of years employed with this employer: 2 years and 7 months

Position/specialty: Assistant State Attorney/Criminal Law (prosecution)

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

Litigation skills and knowledge of the rules of evidence and rules of criminal procedure. Jury and bench trial experience. Patience and the respect for the legal system.

FLORIDA BAR JUDICIAL CANDIDATE
VOLUNTARY SELF-DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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 Bar Association	2013-Present	
Lee County Bar Association	2013-Present	
Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers	2011-2012 and 2015-2016	

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
Lectured and participated in a question and answer session at the Shelter for Abused Women and Children in Naples.	2010	
Board of County Commissioners: Collier County Proclamation recognizing my work with the Collier/Naples Regional Home Invasion Taskforce.	June 10, 2014	

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 assisted a family obtain public records from the Collier County School Board in July 2015.
I served as a mentor for a law student as part of the Young Lawyer's Division with the Florida Bar in 2014.
I served as a volunteer judge for a mock trial competition at Ave Maria Law School in 2014.

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: _____

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., financial penalty, probation or public service):

FLORIDA BAR JUDICIAL CANDIDATE
VOLUNTARY SELF-DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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:

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 17 day of June, 2018.

Name Michael D. Nieman

Certification Confirmation (must be checked prior to submission):