

## APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE COUNTY COURT

**Instructions:** Respond fully to the questions asked below. Please make all efforts to include your full answer to each question in this document. You may attach additional pages, as necessary, however it is discouraged. In addition to the application, you must provide a recent color photograph to help identify yourself.

**Full Name:** DENISE E. MENSCH **Social Security No.:** [REDACTED]

**Florida Bar No.:** 0091766 **Date Admitted to Practice in Florida:** 10/4/1996

1. Please state your current employer and title, including any professional position and any public or judicial office you hold, your business address and telephone number.

General Magistrate, Seventh Judicial Circuit, State of Florida  
4010 Lewis Speedway, Room 290  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
(904) 827-5618

2. Please state your current residential address, including city, county, and zip code. Indicate how long you have resided at this location and how long you have lived in Florida. Additionally, please provide a telephone number where you can be reached (preferably a cell phone number).

[REDACTED]  
St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida 32086  
Resided here since November 2017

Cell phone: [REDACTED]

I am a lifelong resident of Florida. I have lived in St. Johns County since 2005.

3. State your birthdate and place of birth.

[REDACTED]  
St. Petersburg, Florida

4. Are you a registered voter in Florida (Y/N)?  
Yes.

5. Please list all courts (including state bar admissions) and administrative bodies having special admissions requirements to which you have ever been admitted to practice, giving the dates of admission, and if applicable, state whether you have ever been suspended or resigned. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

Florida Bar	October 1996
Middle District of Florida	2003 – Membership lapsed due to full-time employment as a General Magistrate

6. Have you ever been known by any aliases? If so, please indicate and when you were known by such alias.

I was previously known by Denise M. Curry 2000-2005

**EDUCATION:**

7. List in reverse chronological order each secondary school, college, university, law school or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, the date the degree was received, class standing, and graduating GPA (if your class standing or graduating GPA is unknown, please request the same from such school).

Stetson University College of Law	1994-1996	J.D. received May 11, 1996
		Class standing 23/130
		Graduated Cum Laude; GPA 3.240

Georgetown University	1989-1992	B.A. in Psychology December 1992
		Class standing 183/633
		Graduated Cum Laude

St. Petersburg High School	1985-1989	High School Diploma June 1989
		International Baccalaureate Program
		GPA 4.476

8. List and describe any organizations, clubs, fraternities or sororities, and extracurricular activities you engaged in during your higher education. For each, list any positions or titles you held and the dates of participation.

National Honor Society
Phi Delta Phi

**EMPLOYMENT:**

9. List in reverse chronological order all full-time jobs or employment (including internships and clerkships) you have held since the age of 21. Include the name and address of the employer, job title(s) and dates of employment. For non-legal employment, please briefly describe the position and provide a business address and telephone number.

General Magistrate/Hearing Officer  
Seventh Judicial Circuit  
125 E. Orange Avenue, Suite 201, Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
January 2007 – present

Child Welfare Legal Services  
Department of Children and Families  
200 San Sebastian Way  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
August 2004 – December 2006

Assistant State Attorney  
Child Welfare Legal Services Unit  
Sixth Judicial Circuit  
14250 49th Street North  
Clearwater, FL 33762  
June 2003 – July 2004

Associate Attorney representing the Department of Revenue  
Myron J. Mensh, P.A.  
Deceased  
May 2001 – June 2003

Assistant State Attorney  
Fourth Judicial Circuit  
311 West Monroe Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
May 1996 – May 2001

Federal Judicial Internship  
Honorable Thomas B. McCoun, III (deceased)  
U.S. District Court Middle District of Florida  
801 North Florida Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33602  
September 1995

- 10.** Describe the general nature of your current practice including any certifications which you possess; additionally, if your practice is substantially different from your prior practice or if you are not now practicing law, give details of prior practice. Describe your typical clients or former clients and the problems for which they sought your services.

As a General Magistrate I preside over various family law matters in St. Johns and Flagler Counties. The types of cases I hear include motions for temporary relief, uncontested dissolutions of marriage, modifications, contempt/enforcement actions, and name changes. I also manage a dependency docket in Flagler County consisting of arraignments, pre-trials, and

judicial reviews. My role as a quasi-judicial officer is to listen to the testimony, review the evidence, and then issue a written report applying the law to the evidence that was presented. All parties, regardless of whether they have representation, should be treated with respect and provided an opportunity to be heard.

During my employment with the Department of Children and Families and the State Attorney's Office in Pasco County, I represented the Department and its contracted agencies in dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings.

I was employed in private practice for two years as a legal service provider for the Department of Revenue and handled Title IV-D child support cases. We represented the Department of Revenue in establishing, modifying and enforcing child support obligations.

As an Assistant State Attorney in Duval County, I prosecuted misdemeanors, felonies, and juvenile cases for five years.

**11. What percentage of your appearance in court in the last five years or in the last five years of practice (include the dates) was:**

Court		Area of Practice	
Federal Appellate	_____ %	Civil	_____ %
Federal Trial	_____ %	Criminal	_____ %
Federal Other	_____ %	Family	<u>100</u> %
State Appellate	_____ %	Probate	_____ %
State Trial	<u>100</u> %	Other	_____ %
State Administrative	_____ %		
State Other	_____ %		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>100</u> %	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>100</u> %

If your appearance in court the last five years is substantially different from your prior practice, please provide a brief explanation:

**12. In your lifetime, how many (number) of the cases that you tried to verdict, judgment, or final decision were:**

Jury?	<u>5-10</u>	Non-jury?	<u>200+</u>
Arbitration?	_____	Administrative Bodies?	_____

Appellate? \_\_\_\_\_

- 13.** Please list every case that you have argued (or substantially participated) in front of the United States Supreme Court, a United States Circuit Court, the Florida Supreme Court, or a Florida District Court of Appeal, providing the case name, jurisdiction, case number, date of argument, and the name(s), e-mail address(es), and telephone number(s) for opposing appellate counsel. If there is a published opinion, please also include that citation.

None.

- 14.** Within the last ten years, have you ever been formally reprimanded, sanctioned, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended, or terminated by an employer or tribunal before which you have appeared? If so, please state the circumstances under which such action was taken, the date(s) such action was taken, the name(s) of any persons who took such action, and the background and resolution of such action.

None.

- 15.** In the last ten years, have you failed to meet any deadline imposed by court order or received notice that you have not complied with substantive requirements of any business or contractual arrangement? If so, please explain full.

I have never failed to meet any deadline imposed by court order.

- 16.** For your last six cases, which were tried to verdict or handled on appeal, either before a jury, judge, appellate panel, arbitration panel or any other administrative hearing officer, list the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of the trial/appellate counsel on all sides and court case numbers (include appellate cases). *This question is optional for sitting judges who have served five years or more.*

I have been a full-time General Magistrate since 2007.

- 17.** For your last six cases, which were either settled in mediation or settled without mediation or trial, list the names and telephone numbers of trial counsel on all sides and court case numbers (include appellate cases). *This question is optional for sitting judges who have served five years or more.*

I have been a full-time General Magistrate since 2007.

- 18.** During the last five years, on average, how many times per month have you appeared in Court or at administrative hearings? If during any period you have appeared in court with greater

frequency than during the last five years, indicate the period during which you appeared with greater frequency and succinctly explain.

As a General Magistrate, I have hearings scheduled on average four days per week. During my employment prior to becoming a General Magistrate in 2007, I appeared in Court an average of fifteen (15) times per month.

- 19.** If Questions 16, 17, and 18 do not apply to your practice, please list your last six major transactions or other legal matters that were resolved, listing the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of the other party counsel.

This question does not apply to my position as a General Magistrate.

- 20.** During the last five years, if your practice was greater than 50% personal injury, workers' compensation or professional malpractice, what percentage of your work was in representation of plaintiffs or defendants?

My practice has never involved personal injury.

- 21.** List and describe the five most significant cases which you personally litigated giving the case style, number, court and judge, the date of the case, the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of the other attorneys involved, and citation to reported decisions, if any. Identify your client and describe the nature of your participation in the case and the reason you believe it to be significant.

(I am unable to include the specific case styles, numbers, parties, and attorneys for the criminal and dependency cases I handled as much of that information is confidential and I do not have current access to those files.)

- a. Department of Revenue v. James Cummings, et. al, 930 So. 2d 604 (Fla. 2006)  
Co-counsel: Myron J. Mensh, Esquire and the Attorney General's Office

I was employed as a legal service provider for the Department of Revenue with the law firm of Mensh and MacIntosh, P.A. This case was the result of several appeals from the trial court addressing the issue of whether a legal father is an indispensable party to a support proceeding against the putative/biological father. I handled several of these cases at the trial level, and worked closely with the Attorney General's office on the appeals. The resulting decision by the Florida Supreme Court has provided direction for cases throughout the state and protected the interests of the children entitled to support.

- b. J.M., Mother of L.T., D.T., and K.T., Children v. Department of Children and Families, 947 So. 2d 1186 (Fla. 5<sup>th</sup> DCA 2007)  
Presiding Judge: Honorable John M. Alexander

Co-counsel: Jennifer White  
Opposing Counsel: Michael L. Edwards

I represented the Department of Children and Families in a dependency matter wherein the child allegedly committed suicide. The Department sheltered the deceased child's siblings pursuant to allegations of abuse primarily by the stepfather. A possible law enforcement theory regarding the case was that the stepfather inflicted so much psychological abuse upon the children that he was in fact at fault for the child's death. This case was challenging due to the difficulties in proving mental abuse, as well as due to the mother's decision to remain with the stepfather even though the Court refused to reunify the children with her under those circumstances.

- c. In the Interests of S.M. (St. Johns County dependency matter)  
Presiding Judge: Honorable John M. Alexander

I represented the Department of Children and Families in a termination of parental rights proceeding. This case had a number of challenges, beginning with the fact that the child had been removed from her parents several times over the course of approximately 3-4 years. The mother had substantially completed her case plan; however, the Department could not guarantee the child could safely return to her home because of the risk of potential abuse. Each time the child was returned in the past, the mother then placed the child at risk again from domestic violence, hazardous living conditions, substance abuse, or mental health issues. After the Department filed a petition to terminate parental rights, former foster parents then filed an intervening petition to adopt. As there had been allegations of abuse by the foster parent, the Department then challenged the fitness of the potential adoptive family. The Department eventually prevailed on their petition for termination, defeated the intervening petition to adopt, and the child was committed to the Department for adoption.

- d. R.C., Father of R.C., J.G., P.G., S.G., Etc. v. Department of Children and Families, 917 So. 2d 241 (Fla. 5<sup>th</sup> DCA 2005)  
Presiding Judge: Honorable John M. Alexander  
Opposing Counsel: R. Mitchell Prugh

I represented the Department of Children and Families in a dependency matter wherein the six children (all of whom had developmental delays) were removed after the family, while fleeing an open abuse investigation, was involved in a fatal vehicle crash. One of the children was killed during the accident, and S.G. was critically injured. S.G. was in a coma for months, made significant efforts at recovery, but died several years later. An adult sibling accepted the challenge of caring for her younger siblings. The Department learned that the father had sexually abused several of the daughters prior to removal. During a motion to prohibit the father from having contact with the children until he

completed a psychosexual evaluation and necessary treatment, the Department presented child hearsay evidence in order to protect the developmentally delayed victims from having to testify. One of the victims who was unable to testify was the daughter who was still in a coma. The father appealed and the case was reversed as to the child hearsay testimony.

e. State v. M.K.

Opposing counsel: Ray David

I prosecuted M.K. for a charge of driving under the influence. Unlike the majority of such cases, the vehicle M.K. was operating was not moving. This was a case in which the crime was being in actual, physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. M.K. had pulled over to the side of the road and placed his vehicle in park but failed to turn off the engine before passing out. After seeing photographs taken by law enforcement of M.K. sleeping against the steering wheel while the dashboard showed indications that the engine was running, the jury returned a guilty verdict.

22. Attach at least two, but no more than three, examples of legal writing which you personally wrote. If you have not personally written any legal documents recently, you may attach a writing sample for which you had substantial responsibility. Please describe your degree of involvement in preparing the writing you attached.

Please see the attached Reports I have written as a General Magistrate.

### **PRIOR JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE OR PUBLIC OFFICE**

23. Have you ever held judicial office or been a candidate for judicial office? If so, state the court(s) involved, the dates of service or dates of candidacy, and any election results.

I have never held judicial office nor been a candidate for judicial office.

24. If you have previously submitted a questionnaire or application to this or any other judicial nominating commission, please give the name(s) of the commission, the approximate date(s) of each submission, and indicate if your name was certified to the Governor's Office for consideration.

Seventh Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission – February 2010 (Circuit)

Seventh Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission – September 2010 (Circuit)

Seventh Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission – September 2010 (County)

\*My name was certified to the Governor's Office for consideration.



Seventh Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission – April 2011 (Circuit)

Seventh Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission – July 2012 (Circuit)

Seventh Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission – September 2012 (Circuit)

Seventh Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission – August 2014 (Circuit)

- 25.** List any prior quasi-judicial service, including the agency or entity, dates of service, position(s) held, and a brief description of the issues you heard.

Child Support Hearing Officer January 2007 – June 2007  
Child support establishment, modification, and enforcement

General Magistrate/Hearing Officer July 2007 - present  
Family law and dependency matters, including temporary relief, modification, and enforcement.

- 26.** If you have prior judicial or quasi-judicial experience, please list the following information:

- (i) the names, phone numbers and addresses of six attorneys who appeared before you on matters of substance;
  - a. Brandon Beardsley, Esquire,  
254 Paseo Reyes Drive  
St. Augustine, FL 32095  
(904) 877-3663
  - b. Michael R. Phillips, Esquire  
541 East Monroe Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 353-7733
  - c. Kurt F. Teifke, Esquire  
1 Hargrove Grade Bldg. A, Suite 2E  
Palm Coast, FL 32137  
(386) 269-4551
  - d. Anne Marie Gennusa, Esquire  
309 Kingsley Lake Drive, Suite 903  
St. Augustine, FL 32092  
(904) 827-0775
  - e. Carole Vogel, Esquire  
200 San Sebastian View  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

(904) 742-0010

f. Michael Hines, Esquire  
4425 U.S. Highway 1 South, Suite 105  
St. Augustine, FL 32086  
(904) 794-7898

- (ii) the approximate number and nature of the cases you handled during your tenure;

I have handled hundreds of family law, dependency, and child support cases as a General Magistrate and Hearing Officer.

- (iii) the citations of any published opinions; and

R.C. v. Department of Children and Families, 917 So. 2d 241 (Fla. 5<sup>th</sup> DCA 2005)  
J.M. v. Department of Children and Families, 947 So. 2d 1186 (Fla. 5<sup>th</sup> DCA 2007)  
R.M. v. Department of Children and Families, 958 So. 2d 945 (Fla. 5<sup>th</sup> DCA 2007)

- (iv) descriptions of the five most significant cases you have tried or heard, identifying the citation or style, attorneys involved, dates of the case, and the reason you believe these cases to be significant.

- a. T.L.B. v. P.J.B., Sr., St. Johns County DR10-0614; Hearing held March 17, 2011
- i. The Former Wife represented herself. The Former Husband was represented by Christopher Adamec.
  - ii. The parties were divorced in May 2010 and neither party had counsel for the underlying dissolution proceeding. Four children were born during the marriage. The Former Wife's original petition alleged that the third child was not common to the parties, but the parties entered into a Marital Settlement Agreement which identified all four minor children as the parties' children.
  - iii. The Former Husband filed a petition to disestablish paternity of the youngest child when he was nine years old and introduced DNA results showing a 0% probability of paternity. The Former Wife opposed the petition and presented evidence that the Former Husband had always known that he was not the biological father yet had continued to act as the father. The Former Wife testified she disclosed to the Former Husband when she was pregnant with the child that someone else may be the father, but the parties agreed to raise the child as their own.
  - iv. After hearing I found that the Former Husband knew he was not the biological father prior to entry of the Final Judgment, had signed two sworn statements acknowledging paternity, voluntarily promised in writing to support the child, and consented to be named on the child's birth certificate. The petition to disestablish paternity was denied due to

- the Former Husband failing to satisfy the requirements of Section 742.18, Florida Statutes.
- b. J.J.M. v. K.S.M., St. Johns County Case DR12-1103; Hearings held August 15 and 16, 2012 and May 22, 2013
    - i. The Husband was represented by Carol Caldwell and the Wife was represented by Brandon Beardsley.
    - ii. The parties' minor child was two years old at the time of the hearing. The case was referred to me for temporary matters.
    - iii. After consideration of the testimony and application of the relevant factors within Section 61.13, Florida Statutes, I found it was in the child's best interest for the Husband to have temporary majority timesharing and for the Wife to submit to a psychological evaluation due to the evidence which raised concerns about her mental stability. A Final Judgment was subsequently entered with similar recommendations for timesharing.
    - iv. The significance of this case is that the Wife had engaged in behaviors designed to thwart and manipulate the orders of the Court, including having her paramour slash the tires of opposing counsel. The Wife produced a website with derogatory information about the Circuit Judge and other individuals. This case demonstrates the volatility of family law cases and the unpredictability of a litigant's behavior.
  - c. C.G.G. v. D.M.G., St. Johns County Case DR06-1137; Hearings held April 8, 2010, November 27, 2012, February 26, 2013, June 4, 2013, September 19, 2013, October 3, 2013, October 17, 2013, February 6, 2014, and February 9, 2016.
    - i. The Former Husband was represented by Mina Bustamante, Suzanne Green, Jody Greene, and Alan Henderson. The Former Wife was represented by Michael Edwards and Beth Luna.
    - ii. The parties were divorced in 2007 and had three minor children in common.
    - iii. The parties were engaged in litigation for several years following the divorce and the Court was compelled to micromanage much of their children's lives, including their participation in extra-curricular activities.
    - iv. This case illustrates the damage that can be caused to the children during lengthy litigation in family law.
  - d. F.W. v. K.W., St. Johns County Case DR16-1057; Hearing held February 5, 2019
    - i. The Former Wife was represented by John Westfield; The Former Husband was pro se.
    - ii. The Former Wife was seeking to compel the Former Husband to sign necessary documents for her to get passports for the children and to travel to the Sudan where she was born. The Former Husband objected because he felt it was not safe for the Former Wife to travel with the children to that region.
    - iii. The significance in this case were the travel advisories from the U.S. State Department warning that individuals reconsider travel to that area "due to

terrorism and civil unrest.” The State Department recommended that persons travelling there establish protocols in the event they are kidnapped and leave DNA samples for potential identification. The Former Wife’s request to compel the Former Husband to consent to the travel was denied.

- e. M.F. v. A.D.P., St. Johns County Case DR16-0961, Hearing held March 1, 2017
  - i. The Wife was represented by Lawrence C. Datz, and the Husband was represented by Lauren Kingry.
  - ii. It is noted that the parties have continued to engage in extensive litigation and there are currently almost 800 filings. Both parties have changed counsel several times.
  - iii. The case was first before me for temporary needs. The determination of financial matters was difficult due to the parties operating a business and regularly receiving money from family members in another country. Additionally, one party had begun a business post-separation that was in direct competition with the parties’ marital business. This case illustrates the challenges facing the Court during a dissolution of marriage when the parties jointly operate a business.

**27.** Provide citations and a brief summary of all of your orders or opinions where your decision was reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, attach copies of the opinions.

M. v. M., St. Johns County DR12-0819

The matter came before me on contempt and a supplemental petition for modification of child support and alimony. I found that the Former Husband’s termination from his employment due to his alcoholism and failure to report to work was a voluntary circumstance. The trial court remanded the matter to me for further findings and I issued a supplemental report recognizing the authority of *Hass v. Hass*, 552 So. 2d 252 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 1989) and amending my recommendations accordingly.

Martin v. Robbins, 194 So. 3d 563 (Fla. 5<sup>th</sup> DCA 2016)

The matter came before me upon the Former Husband’s request to modify alimony. I found that the Former Wife’s romantic relationship had ended and therefore there was not a supportive relationship. The case was remanded on appeal and the Former Husband was afforded a credit towards alimony for the time period within which the supportive relationship existed.

**28.** Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, attach copies of the opinions.

I have not submitted any significant recommendations on federal or state constitutional issues.

- 29.** Has a complaint about you ever been made to the Judicial Qualifications Commission? If so, give the date, describe the complaint, whether or not there was a finding of probable cause, whether or not you have appeared before the Commission, and its resolution.

I have never had a complaint to the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

- 30.** Have you ever held an attorney in contempt? If so, for each instance state the name of the attorney, case style for the matter in question, approximate date and describe the circumstances.

I have never held any attorney in contempt.

- 31.** Have you ever held or been a candidate for any other public office? If so, state the office, location, dates of service or candidacy, and any election results.

I have never held nor been a candidate for any other public office.

#### **NON-LEGAL BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT**

- 32.** If you are now an officer, director, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise, state the name of such enterprise, the nature of the business, the nature of your duties, and whether you intend to resign such position immediately upon your appointment or election to judicial office.

I am not engaged in the management of any business enterprise.

- 33.** Since being admitted to the Bar, have you ever engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law? If so, explain and provide dates. If you received any compensation of any kind outside the practice of law during this time, please list the amount of compensation received.

I have not engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law since being admitted to the Bar in 1996.

#### **POSSIBLE BIAS OR PREJUDICE**

- 34.** The Commission is interested in knowing if there are certain types of cases, groups of entities, or extended relationships or associations which would limit the cases for which you could sit as the presiding judge. Please list all types or classifications of cases or litigants for which you, as a general proposition, believe it would be difficult for you to sit as the presiding judge. Indicate the reason for each situation as to why you believe you might be in conflict. If you have prior judicial experience, describe the types of cases from which you have recused yourself.

I do not believe there are types of cases, groups of entities, or extended relationships or associations which would limit the cases for which I could sit as the presiding judge.

As a Magistrate, I have recused myself from several cases where I felt my personal relationship or acquaintance with one or both of the parties would have impacted my ability to render a fair and impartial recommendation.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- 35.** List the titles, publishers, and dates of any books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published materials you have written or edited, including materials published only on the Internet. Attach a copy of each listed or provide a URL at which a copy can be accessed.

I have not published any materials.

- 36.** List any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed to the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. Provide the name of the entity, the date published, and a summary of the document. To the extent you have the document, please attach a copy or provide a URL at which a copy can be accessed.

I have not prepared or contributed to the preparation of any reports or policy statements on behalf of any organization. I have been a voting member of the Florida Bar Committee for the Legal Needs of Children which has taken positions on certain issues.

- 37.** List any speeches or talks you have delivered, including commencement speeches, remarks, interviews, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place they were delivered, the sponsor of the presentation, and a summary of the presentation. If there are any readily available press reports, a transcript or recording, please attach a copy or provide a URL at which a copy can be accessed.

I have been a participant/speaker in the past at Guardian Ad Litem training and for Foster Parent Training.

I have presented case studies to high school government classes through the Justice Teaching initiative.

I have never engaged in any political interviews, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, or speeches.

- 38.** Have you ever taught a course at an institution of higher education or a bar association? If so, provide the course title, a description of the course subject matter, the institution at which you taught, and the dates of teaching. If you have a syllabus for each course, please provide.

I have not taught a course at an institution of higher education.

I briefly taught an LSAT class for Kaplan.

- 39.** List any fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement. Include the date received and the presenting entity or organization.

Phi Delta Phi

Great American Award for Quality from the Department of Children and Families January 2006

Great American Award for Leadership from the Department of Children and Families June 2006

- 40.** Do you have a Martindale-Hubbell rating? If so, what is it and when was it earned?

I do not have a Martindale-Hubbell rating.

- 41.** List all bar associations, legal, and judicial-related committees of which you are or have been a member. For each, please provide dates of membership or participation. Also, for each indicate any office you have held and the dates of office.

St. Johns County Bar Association - unknown years

Flagler County Bar Association - unknown years

Association of Florida Magistrates and Hearing Officers 2019 – present

National Conference of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 2011 – 2013

Florida Bar Family Law Rules Committee 2008 – 2011

Florida Bar Legal Needs of Children Committee 2015 - 2021

St. Augustine Inns of Court November 2017 - present

- 42.** List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in the previous question to which you belong, or to which you have belonged since graduating law school. For each, please provide dates of membership or participation and indicate any office you have held and the dates of office.

Georgetown Alumni Association; I conduct alumni interviews of students applying to Georgetown.

Temple Bet Yam 2008 – present

I served on the Board of Trustees from 2011 until 2021 and have held the following offices during that time: President, Vice President, Religious School Trustee, and Constitution/By-laws Trustee.

- 43.** Do you now or have you ever belonged to a club or organization that in practice or policy restricts (or restricted during the time of your membership) its membership on the basis of race, religion (other than a church, synagogue, mosque or other religious institution), national origin, or sex (other than an educational institution, fraternity or sorority)? If so, state the name and

nature of the club(s) or organization(s), relevant policies and practices and whether you intend to continue as a member if you are selected to serve on the bench.

I have never belonged to a club or organization as described above.

- 44.** Please describe any significant pro bono legal work you have done in the past 10 years, giving dates of service.

My employment as a full-time government employee has prevented me from engaging in pro bono work.

- 45.** Please describe any hobbies or other vocational interests.

I enjoy baking, playing golf (rather poorly!), reading, and family outings.

- 46.** Please state whether you have served or currently serve in the military, including your dates of service, branch, highest rank, and type of discharge.

I have never served in the military.

- 47.** Please provide links to all social media and blog accounts you currently maintain, including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

I use a pseudonym for social media accounts:

Facebook – [REDACTED]

Instagram – [REDACTED]

Twitter - @[REDACTED]

Snapchat - [REDACTED]

## **FAMILY BACKGROUND**

- 48.** Please state your current marital status. If you are currently married, please list your spouse's name, current occupation, including employer, and the date of the marriage. If you have ever been divorced, please state for each former spouse their name, current address, current telephone number, the date and place of the divorce and court and case number information.

I have been married since March 31, 2006 to Richard Zicht. My husband is self-employed and owns Cardinal Home Service.

I was divorced from [REDACTED] on June 14, 2005.

Pinellas County Case 05-006765-FD-12.

To the best of my knowledge, his current contact information is as follows:

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

49. If you have children, please list their names and ages. If your children are over 18 years of age, please list their current occupation, residential address, and a current telephone number.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**CRIMINAL AND MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS**

50. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, including adjudications of guilt withheld? If so, please list and provide the charges, case style, date of conviction, and terms of any sentence imposed, including whether you have completed those terms.

I have never been arrested or charged with a crime.

51. Have you ever pled nolo contendere or guilty to a crime which is a felony or misdemeanor, including adjudications of guilt withheld? If so, please list and provide the charges, case style, date of conviction, and terms of any sentence imposed, including whether you have completed those terms.

I have never been arrested or charged with a crime.

52. Have you ever been arrested, regardless of whether charges were filed? If so, please list and provide sufficient details surrounding the arrest, the approximate date and jurisdiction.

I have never been arrested or charged with a crime.

53. Have you ever been a party to a lawsuit, either as the plaintiff, defendant, petitioner, or respondent? If so, please supply the case style, jurisdiction/county in which the lawsuit was filed, case number, your status in the case, and describe the nature and disposition of the matter.

Dissolution of Marriage, Pinellas County, Florida Circuit Civil No. 05-006765-FD-12  
I was the Petitioner. A Final Judgment was entered on June 14, 2005

Joint Petition for Adoption by Stepparent, St. Johns County, Florida [REDACTED]  
I was the Petitioner. A Final Judgment of Stepparent Adoption was entered on June 16, 2010

General Complaint (Small Claims), St. Johns County, Florida SP19-2436  
I was the Petitioner along with my husband. A Final Judgment was entered on March 16, 2020 and a Satisfaction of Judgment was filed on May 5, 2020.

- 54.** To your knowledge, has there ever been a complaint made or filed alleging malpractice as a result of action or inaction on your part?

To my knowledge there has never been such a complaint made.

- 55.** To the extent you are aware, have you or your professional liability carrier ever settled a claim against you for professional malpractice? If so, give particulars, including the name of the client(s), approximate dates, nature of the claims, the disposition and any amounts involved.

To the extent I am aware, there have been no claims made against me for malpractice.

- 56.** Has there ever been a finding of probable cause or other citation issued against you or are you presently under investigation for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, or other professional group. If so, provide the particulars of each finding or investigation.

There has never been a finding of probable cause or other citation issued against me and I am not presently under investigation by any association.

- 57.** To your knowledge, within the last ten years, have any of your current or former co-workers, subordinates, supervisors, customers, clients, or the like, ever filed a formal complaint or accusation of misconduct including, but not limited to, any allegations involving sexual harassment, creating a hostile work environment or conditions, or discriminatory behavior against you with any regulatory or investigatory agency or with your employer? If so, please state the date of complaint or accusation, specifics surrounding the complaint or accusation, and the resolution or disposition.

I have never been accused of misconduct.

- 58.** Are you currently the subject of an investigation which could result in civil, administrative, or criminal action against you? If yes, please state the nature of the investigation, the agency conducting the investigation, and the expected completion date of the investigation.

To my knowledge, I am not currently the subject of an investigation.

- 59.** Have you ever filed a personal petition in bankruptcy or has a petition in bankruptcy been filed against you, this includes any corporation or business entity that you were involved with? If so, please provide the case style, case number, approximate date of disposition, and any relevant details surrounding the bankruptcy.

I have never filed a petition in bankruptcy.

**60.** In the past ten years, have you been subject to or threatened with eviction proceedings? If yes, please explain.

I have never been subject to or threatened with eviction proceedings.

**61.** Please explain whether you have complied with all legally required tax return filings. To the extent you have ever had to pay a tax penalty or a tax lien was filed against you, please explain giving the date, the amounts, disposition, and current status.

I have complied with all legally required tax return filings. I have never had to pay a tax penalty.

## **HEALTH**

**62.** Are you currently addicted to or dependent upon the use of narcotics, drugs, or alcohol?

I am not addicted to nor dependent upon the use of narcotics, drugs or alcohol.

**63.** During the last ten years have you been hospitalized or have you consulted a professional or have you received treatment or a diagnosis from a professional for any of the following: Kleptomania, Pathological or Compulsive Gambling, Pedophilia, Exhibitionism or Voyeurism? If your answer is yes, please direct each such professional, hospital and other facility to furnish the Chairperson of the Commission any information the Commission may request with respect to any such hospitalization, consultation, treatment or diagnosis. ["Professional" includes a Physician, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Psychotherapist or Mental Health Counselor.] Please describe such treatment or diagnosis.

I have never been hospitalized or treated for the above mentioned conditions .

**64.** In the past ten years have any of the following occurred to you which would interfere with your ability to work in a competent and professional manner: experiencing periods of no sleep for two or three nights, experiencing periods of hyperactivity, spending money profusely with extremely poor judgment, suffering from extreme loss of appetite, issuing checks without sufficient funds, defaulting on a loan, experiencing frequent mood swings, uncontrollable tiredness, falling asleep without warning in the middle of an activity. If yes, please explain.

I have not suffered from any of the above-referenced issues.

**65.** Do you currently have a physical or mental impairment which in any way limits your ability or fitness to properly exercise your duties as a member of the Judiciary in a competent and professional manner? If yes please explain the limitation or impairment and any treatment, program or counseling sought or prescribed.

I do not suffer from any physical or mental impairment which in any way limits my ability or fitness to properly exercise my duties as a member of the Judiciary.

- 66.** During the last ten years, have you ever been declared legally incompetent or have you or your property been placed under any guardianship, conservatorship or committee? If yes, provide full details as to court, date, and circumstances.

I have never been declared legally incompetent. I have never had myself or my property placed under any guardianship, conservatorship or committee.

- 67.** During the last ten years, have you unlawfully used controlled substances, narcotic drugs, or dangerous drugs as defined by Federal or State laws? If your answer is "Yes," explain in detail. (Unlawful use includes the use of one or more drugs and/or the unlawful possession or distribution of drugs. It does not include the use of drugs taken under supervision of a licensed health care professional or other uses authorized by Federal or State law provisions.)

I have not unlawfully used controlled substances, narcotic drugs or dangerous drugs during the last ten years.

- 68.** In the past ten years, have you ever been reprimanded, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended, cautioned, or terminated by an employer as result of your alleged consumption of alcohol, prescription drugs, or illegal drugs? If so, please state the circumstances under which such action was taken, the name(s) of any persons who took such action, and the background and resolution of such action

I have never been reprimanded or otherwise disciplined due to alleged consumption of alcohol or drugs.

- 69.** Have you ever refused to submit to a test to determine whether you had consumed and/or were under the influence of alcohol or drugs? If so, please state the date you were requested to submit to such a test, the type of test required, the name of the entity requesting that you submit to the test, the outcome of your refusal, and the reason why you refused to submit to such a test.

I have never refused to submit to a test to determine whether I was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- 70.** In the past ten years, have you suffered memory loss or impaired judgment for any reason? If so, please explain in full.

I have not suffered any memory loss or impaired judgment during the past ten years.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

- 71.** Describe any additional education or experiences you have which could assist you in holding judicial office.

As a General Magistrate, I preside over evidentiary hearings on a daily basis. I manage weekly case management dockets. I regularly conduct legal research, review written arguments, and make conclusions of law. My job responsibilities include taking testimony, ruling on evidentiary objections, reviewing the evidence, applying statutory authority and case law precedents, entering written findings of fact and preparing proposed judgments for rendition by the court.

I have extensive experience making difficult decisions in emotionally charged cases. I have a documented record of entering thorough findings of fact and recommendations that are amply supported by evidence and the law.

I attended the Magistrates forum at the Judicial College in 2008. The program was parallel to the Judicial College for new judges and included joint participation in many substantive areas. I have attended courses at the Advanced Judicial College and frequently attend continuing education programs.

My quasi-judicial experience has uniquely prepared me to become a member of the Judiciary. I have spent over 14 years listening to evidence, applying the law to the facts, and reducing my findings and conclusions to writing. I have learned how to control a courtroom while continuing to be pleasant and respectful. I strictly adhere to the requirements for due process and am dedicated to following the law and ensuring that all parties are treated fairly.

- 72.** Explain the particular contribution you believe your selection would bring to this position and provide any additional information you feel would be helpful to the Commission and Governor in evaluating your application.

I believe my selection as a judge would enable the Seventh Circuit to continue to provide a high level of service and justice for the community. I have substantial experience in both criminal and civil practice. I spent five years as a prosecutor and five years in civil and family litigation. I have appeared before trial courts regularly and am comfortable with the rules of evidence and procedure. I have managed high case loads and have a proven record of applying the law to the evidence and issuing prompt recommendations.

Community service has been a prevailing theme in both my professional and personal life. I have interacted with students and teachers to facilitate and encourage civics education. I have been an active supporter and volunteer of our Temple as well as several local youth sports programs. As an alumni interviewer for Georgetown University, I have been privileged to meet extremely bright young students in our area and encourage them in their pursuit of higher education.

I have integrity and am dedicated to the separation of powers within our government. I am committed to following and applying the law as written by the legislature. I believe my experience in both criminal and civil courts, and as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer, has

provided me with the skills to be an effective member of the judiciary. I strive to treat litigants fairly, with patience and courtesy, and maintain impartiality throughout the proceedings. I have the legal knowledge, interpersonal skills, and temperament with which to be a reasoned and efficient judge. I am comfortable utilizing technology in the courtroom and am prepared to assume the bench immediately.

## REFERENCES

73. List the names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of ten persons who are in a position to comment on your qualifications for a judicial position and of whom inquiry may be made by the Commission and the Governor.

Judge Howard M. Maltz  
Richard O. Watson Judicial Center  
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(904) 827-5600

Judge Joan Anthony  
Richard O. Watson Judicial Center  
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(904) 827-5603

Judge Howard O. McGillin, Jr.  
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Palatka, FL 32178  
(386) 329-0266

Judge Christopher A. France  
Kim C. Hammond Justice Center  
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Judge Charles J. Tinlin  
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