

**APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT COURT**

(Please attach additional pages as needed to respond fully to questions.)

**DATE:** April 4, 2019 Florida Bar No.: 0693820

**GENERAL:** Social Security No.: \_\_\_\_\_

steve@hendersonlegalgroup.co

1. Name Stephen Henderson E-mail: m

Date Admitted to Practice in Florida: 12/14/2003

Date Admitted to Practice in other States: 6/12/2003

2. State current employer and title, including professional position and any public or judicial office.

Henderson Legal Group - Partner

3. Business address: 5419 Village Drive

City Viera County Brevard State FL ZIP 32944

Telephone (321) 806-3500 FAX (321) 806-3501

4. Residential address: \_\_\_\_\_

City Viera County Brevard State FL ZIP 32940

Since August 2015 Telephone ( ) -

5. Place of birth: Orange County, California

Date of birth: June 1, 1968 Age: 50

6a. Length of residence in State of Florida: 15+

6b. Are you a registered voter?  Yes  No

If so, in what county are you registered? Brevard

7. Marital status: Married

If married: Spouse's name Maria Henderson

Date of marriage 4/17/2011

Spouse's occupation Attorney

If ever divorced give for each marriage name(s) of spouse(s), current address for each former spouse, date and place of divorce, court and case number for each divorce.

Christy Henderson, September 4, 2008. Brevard County, 2006-DR-052883

8. Children  
*Name(s)*                      *Age(s)*                      *Occupation(s)*                      *Residential address(es)*

9. Military Service (including Reserves)

*Service*                      *Branch*                      *Highest Rank*                      *Dates*  
 n/a

Rank at time of discharge \_\_\_\_\_ Type of discharge \_\_\_\_\_

Awards or citations \_\_\_\_\_

*Service*                      *Branch*                      *Highest Rank*                      *Dates*

Rank at time of discharge \_\_\_\_\_ Type of discharge \_\_\_\_\_

Awards or citations \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH:**

10.

11a.

11b.

12a.

12b.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

**EDUCATION:**

18a. Secondary schools, colleges and law schools attended.

<i>Schools</i>	<i>Class Standing</i>	<i>Dates of Attendance</i>	<i>Degree</i>
Seattle University School of Law	unknown	8/1999-12/2002	JD
UCLA	unknown	6/1989-12/1992	BA Economics
Nagoya International School	unknown	8/1979-6/1986	HS Diploma

18b. List and describe academic scholarships earned, honor societies or other awards.

Cum Laude - Juris Doctorate

**NON-LEGAL EMPLOYMENT:**

19. List all previous full-time non-legal jobs or positions held since 21 in chronological order and briefly describe them.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Employer</i>	<i>Address</i>
6/1989- 6/1990	Sales/Cashier	UCLA Bookstore	Los Angeles, CA
6/1989- 12/1992	Tour Guide	Japan Travel Bureau	Los Angeles, CA
1/1993- 6/1994	U.S. Trade Liason	Koh Co. Ltd.	Seattle, WA
6/1994- 12/2002	International Trade Consultant	Apex Co. Ltd.	Seattle, WA

**PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS:**

20. List all courts (including state bar admissions) and administrative bodies having special admission requirements to which you have ever been admitted to practice, giving the dates of admission, and if applicable, state whether you have been suspended or resigned.

Florida Bar 12/14/2003

Washington State Bar 6/12/2003

Federal Middle District Court - Orlando, Florida 2010

**LAW PRACTICE:** (If you are a sitting judge, answer questions 21 through 26 with reference to the years before you became a judge.)

21. State the names, dates and addresses for all firms with which you have been associated in practice, governmental agencies or private business organizations by which you have been employed, periods you have practiced as a sole practitioner, law clerkships and other prior employment:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name of Firm</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Partner	Henderson Legal Group	5419 Village Drive, Viera, FL 32955	6/2010- present
Assistant Public Defender	Public Defenders Office, 18 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit	2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida 32940	12/2003- 6/2010

22. 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.

Criminal defense, delinquency, dependency, family, federal, appellate, and civil. During the time I was an assistant public defender I practiced criminal defense exclusively. Currently, I do not have a specific type of clients, as I represent clients from all walks of life and in several different areas of law.

23. What percentage of your appearance in courts in the last five years or last five years of practice (include the dates) was in:

Court		Area of Practice	
Federal Appellate	_____ %	Civil	_____ 15 %
Federal Trial	_____ 5 %	Criminal	_____ 60 %
Federal Other	_____ %	Family	_____ 10 %
State Appellate	_____ 5 %	Probate	_____ %
State Trial	_____ 85 %	Other	_____ 15 %
State Administrative	_____ 5 %		
State Other	_____ %		
	_____ %		
TOTAL	_____ 100 %	TOTAL	_____ 100 %

24. In your lifetime, how many (number) of the cases you have tried to verdict or judgment were:

Jury?	_____ 50+	Non-jury?	_____ 100+
Arbitration?	_____ 0	Administrative Bodies?	_____ 25+

25. 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.

No

26. 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 in full.

No

**(Questions 27 through 30 are optional for sitting judges who have served 5 years or more.)**

27a. For your last 6 cases, which were tried to verdict before a jury or arbitration panel or tried to judgment before a judge, list the names and telephone numbers of trial counsel on all sides and court case numbers (include appellate cases).

\*Please see attached addendum.

27b. For your last 6 cases, which were 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).

\*Please see attached addendum.

27c. During the last five years, how frequently have you appeared at administrative hearings?  
1 average times per month

27d. During the last five years, how frequently have you appeared in Court?  
15 to 20 average times per month

27e. During the last five years, if your practice was substantially personal injury, what percentage of your work was in representation of plaintiffs? \_\_\_\_\_% Defendants?  
\_\_\_\_\_%

28. If during any prior period you have appeared in court with greater frequency than during the last five years, indicate the period during which this was so and give for such prior periods a succinct statement of the part you played in the litigation, numbers of cases and whether jury or non-jury.

Although I currently appear in court almost daily, my time as an assistant public defender (12/2003 - 6/2010) required me to be in court daily. In private practice, I have continued defending criminal defendants, but have also represented clients as the petitioner/plaintiff and respondent/defendant. I have handled thousands of cases, while the majority of these cases were resolved without a trial, I have participated in numerous trials. Due to being in practice for nearly 15 years, I do not recall every jury trial and non-jury trial I have done. My best estimate is that I have done at least 50 jury trials and over 100 non-jury trials. In the vast majority of my trials I handled them exclusively, but have done numerous trials with co-counsel as well.

29. For the cases you have tried to award in arbitration, during each of the past five years, indicate whether you were sole, associate or chief counsel. Give citations of any reported cases.

n/a

30. List and describe the six most significant cases which you personally litigated giving case style, number 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. Give the name of the court and judge, the date tried and names of other attorneys involved.

\*Please see attached addendum.

31. Attach at least one example of legal writing which you personally wrote. If you have not personally written any legal documents recently, you may attach writing for which you had substantial responsibility. Please describe your degree of involvement in preparing the writing you attached.

Stand your ground motion. Written exclusively by myself.

Appellate brief. Written exclusively by myself.

**PRIOR JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE OR PUBLIC OFFICE:**

32a. Have you ever held judicial office or been a candidate for judicial office? If so, state the court(s) involved and the dates of service or dates of candidacy.

1) Judicial candidate for the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Circuit Court, February 2016 - November 2016. 2) JNC Applicant for the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Circuit Court, September 2018.

32b. List any prior quasi-judicial service:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Position Held</i>
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Types of issues heard:

32c. Have you ever held or been a candidate for any other public office? If so, state the office, location and dates of service or candidacy.

No

32d. If you have had prior judicial or quasi-judicial experience,

(i) List the names, phone numbers and addresses of six attorneys who appeared before you on matters of substance.

(ii) Describe the approximate number and nature of the cases you have handled during your judicial or quasi-judicial tenure.

(iii) List citations of any opinions which have been published.

(iv) List citations or styles and describe the five most significant cases you have tried or heard. Identify the parties, describe the cases and tell why you believe them to be significant. Give dates tried and names of attorneys involved.

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

(vi) Have you ever held an attorney in contempt? If so, for each instance state name of attorney, approximate date and circumstances.



- (vii) If you are a quasi-judicial officer (ALJ, Magistrate, General Master), have you ever been disciplined or reprimanded by a sitting judge? If so, describe.

**BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT:**

- 33a. 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.

Henderson Legal Group - legal services - Partner - will resign if appointed.

- 33b. Since being admitted to the Bar, have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law? If so, give details, including dates.

No

- 33c. State whether during the past five years you have received any fees or compensation of any kind, other than for legal services rendered, from any business enterprise, institution, organization, or association of any kind. If so, identify the source of such compensation, the nature of the business enterprise, institution, organization or association involved and the dates such compensation was paid and the amounts.

None

**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.

None

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- 35a. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No No If "Yes" what charges? \_\_\_\_\_

Where convicted? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_

- 35b. Have you pled nolo contendere or pled guilty to a crime which is a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No No If "Yes" what charges? \_\_\_\_\_

Where convicted? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_

- 35c. Have you ever had the adjudication of guilt withheld for a crime which is a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If "Yes" what charges? \_\_\_\_\_

Where convicted? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_

36a. Have you ever been sued by a client? If so, give particulars including name of client, date suit filed, court, case number and disposition.

No

36b. Has any lawsuit to your knowledge been filed alleging malpractice as a result of action or inaction on your part?

No

36c. Have you or your professional liability insurance carrier ever settled a claim against you for professional malpractice? If so, give particulars, including the amounts involved.

No

37a. Have you ever filed a personal petition in bankruptcy or has a petition in bankruptcy been filed against you?

Yes

37b. Have you ever owned more than 25% of the issued and outstanding shares or acted as an officer or director of any corporation by which or against which a petition in bankruptcy has been filed? If so, give name of corporation, your relationship to it and date and caption of petition.

No

38. Have you ever been a party to a lawsuit either as a plaintiff or as a defendant? If so, please supply the jurisdiction/county in which the lawsuit was filed, style, case number, nature of the lawsuit, whether you were Plaintiff or Defendant and its disposition.

Los Angeles, California June 1991. Automobile accident. Plaintiff. Awarded damages.

Brevard County- SMS v. American Pacific Exporters, et al. 2006-CA-6958 Domesticated foreign judgment. co-defendant. Dismissed.

39. 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, give the particulars.

No

40. To your knowledge within the last ten years, have any of your current or former co-workers, subordinates, supervisors, customers or clients ever filed a formal complaint or formal accusation of misconduct against you with any regulatory or investigatory agency, or with your employer? If so, please state the date(s) of such formal complaint or formal accusation(s), the specific formal complaint or formal accusation(s) made, and the background and resolution of such action(s). (Any complaint filed with JQC, refer to 32d(v).

None

41. 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.

No

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

No

- 43a. Have you filed all past tax returns as required by federal, state, local and other government authorities?

Yes  No  If no, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

- 43b. Have you ever paid a tax penalty?

Yes  No  If yes, please explain what and why. \_\_\_\_\_

- 43c. Has a tax lien ever been filed against you? If so, by whom, when, where and why?

No

#### **HONORS AND PUBLICATIONS:**

44. If you have published any books or articles, list them, giving citations and dates.

n/a

45. List any honors, prizes or awards you have received. Give dates.

JD with Honors 12/2003

46. List and describe any speeches or lectures you have given.

1) Gave numerous speeches to various groups regarding my candidacy for judicial office. Audiences ranged from 5 to 100+.

2) Eastern Florida State College - 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment speech to law enforcement.

47. Do you have a Martindale-Hubbell rating? Yes  If so, what is it? \_\_\_ No

#### **PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

- 48a. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any office which you may have held in such groups and committees to which you belonged.

Brevard County Bar Association- Member

Seminole County Bar Association - Member

Florida Bar Association - Member

Washington State Bar Association - Member

Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers - Member

- 48b. List, in a fully identifiable fashion, all organizations, other than those identified in

response to question No. 48(a), of which you have been a member since graduating from law school, including the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in each such organization.

Advisory Committee Member – EEL Program Recreation and Education Advisory Committee. Appointed on recommendation of Commissioner John Tobia for the years 2017, 2018, and 2019.

48c. List your hobbies or other vocational interests.

Fishing, reading, travelling, and boating,

48d. Do you now or have you ever belonged to any 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, national origin or sex? If so, detail 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.

No

48e. Describe any pro bono legal work you have done. Give dates.

Ongoing since 2010 to present. Pro bono legal assistance primarily to law enforcement officers and their family members. In addition, I routinely represent clients who are unable to afford private representation.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

49a. Have you attended any continuing legal education programs during the past five years? If so, in what substantive areas?

Yes. Family law and Criminal Law.

49b. Have you taught any courses on law or lectured at bar association conferences, law school forums, or continuing legal education programs? If so, in what substantive areas?

Yes. 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment issues for law enforcement officers at Eastern.

50. Describe any additional education or other experience you have which could assist you in holding judicial office.

\*Please refer to attached mini-biography.

51. Explain the particular potential contribution you believe your selection would bring to this position.

My extensive experience in court; broad range of experience in multiple areas of law; great temperament; efficient in handling a high case load or docket; hard working; an understanding and respect for all parties and attorneys that appear in court; appreciation and understanding of other cultures; high intellect; not afraid to admit when I may need to research an issue; capable of being firm when required.

52. If you have previously submitted a questionnaire or application to this or any other judicial nominating commission, please give the name of the commission and the approximate date of submission.

18th Circuit Judicial Nominating Committee - September 5, 2018.

53. Give any other information you feel would be helpful to the Commission in evaluating your application.

This particular circuit court vacancy is up for re-election in 2020. Therefore, the candidate that is appointed to this vacancy will have to announce their candidacy and pay the filing fee on or before May 2020. It is possible that the candidate who is appointed may have to run a campaign in 2020 should they receive opposition. I have a distinct advantage since I ran a circuit court campaign in 2016 that encompassed two counties. I also believe that having run a solid campaign and possessing the financial resources to run another campaign discourages opposition. In addition, many judicial races are won by name recognition and having run a campaign I possess that name recognition.

**REFERENCES:**

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

Honorable Jack Griesbaum

Honorable George Maxwell

Honorable Thomas Brown

Honorable Morgan Laur Reinman

Honorable Charlie Crawford

Honorable Jeffrey Mahl

John Edward Jones, Esq.

Lila & Keith Beuscher

William Tolley

Joe Downs

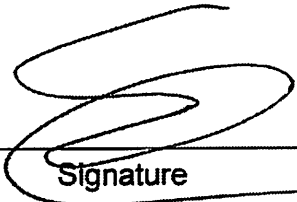
**CERTIFICATE**

I have read the foregoing questions carefully and have answered them truthfully, fully and completely. I hereby waive notice by and authorize The Florida Bar or any of its committees, educational and other institutions, the Judicial Qualifications Commission, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners or any judicial or professional disciplinary or supervisory body or commission, any references furnished by me, employers, business and professional associates, all governmental agencies and instrumentalities and all consumer and credit reporting agencies to release to the respective Judicial Nominating Commission and Office of the Governor any information, files, records or credit reports requested by the commission in connection with any consideration of me as possible nominee for appointment to judicial office. Information relating to any Florida Bar disciplinary proceedings is to be made available in accordance with Rule 3-7.1(l), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. I recognize and agree that, pursuant to the Florida Constitution and the Uniform Rules of this commission, the contents of this questionnaire and other information received from or concerning me, and all interviews and proceedings of the commission, except for deliberations by the commission, shall be open to the public.

Further, I stipulate I have read, and understand the requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct.

Dated this 4 day of April, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

*(Pursuant to Section 119.071(4)(d)(1), F.S.), . . . The home addresses and telephone numbers of justices of the Supreme Court, district court of appeal judges, circuit court judges, and county court judges; the home addresses, telephone numbers, and places of employment of the spouses and children of justices and judges; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of justices and judges are exempt from the provisions of subsection (1), dealing with public records.*