

**APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT**

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

**DATE:** April 12, 2019 Florida Bar No.: 0988758

**GENERAL:** Social Security No.: [REDACTED]

1. Name Suzanne Jane Taylor E-mail: Sjtaylor1@yahoo.com

Date Admitted to Practice in Florida: October, 1993

Date Admitted to Practice in other States: N/A

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

Guardian ad Litem Program, Senior Best Interest Attorney

3. Business address: 2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way

City Viera County Brevard State FL ZIP 32940

Telephone (321) 690-6823 FAX (321) 690-6897

4. Residential address: [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] County Brevard State FL ZIP [REDACTED]

Since July, 2002 Telephone (321) 213-3264

5. Place of birth: Doylestown, PA

Date of birth: 10.24.64 Age: 54

6a. Length of residence in State of Florida: 29 years

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 Jonathan Scott Wyse

Date of marriage 05.29.2000

Spouse's occupation Engineer

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.

N/A



11b. 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 2 or 3 nights
- Experiencing periods of hyperactivity
- Spending money profusely with extremely poor judgment
- Suffered 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

Yes  No

If yes, please explain.

12a. 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?

Yes  No

12b. If your answer to the question above is Yes, are the limitations or impairments caused by your physical or mental health impairment reduced or ameliorated because you receive ongoing treatment (with or without medication) or participate in a monitoring or counseling program?

Yes  No

Describe such problem and any treatment or program of monitoring or counseling.

13. 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, give full details as to court, date and circumstances.

No

14. 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 law provisions.)

No

15. 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 use of 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.

No

16. 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.

No

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

No

**EDUCATION:**

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

<i>Schools</i>	<i>Class Standing</i>	<i>Dates of Attendance</i>	<i>Degree</i>
University of Miami School of Law	Unknown	Aug, 1990-May, 1993	J.D.
Institute for Paralegal Training	Unknown	June, 1986-Sept, 1986	Certificate, Employee Benefits
Pennsylvania State University	Unknown	August, 1982-January, 1986	B.A., Prelaw
Palisades Jr-Sr High School	Unknown	Sept 1976-June, 1982	Diploma

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

National Honor Society

**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>
Sept, 1986-1988	Paralegal	Reid & Riege, PC	2699 Stirling Road, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
1988 (2 months)	Paralegal	Assoc. Benefit Consultants	One Financial Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103
1988-1989	Paralegal	Wolper, Ross, Ingham	Miami, FL
1990	Secretary	Personnel Plus	1399 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL
1990	Waitress	Denny's	2331 S Federal Hwy, Stuart, FL 34994
1993	Secretary	Taylor Pest Management	851 NE Jensen Beach Blvd, Jensen Beach, FL 34957

**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.

U.S. District Court 1996

11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal 1996 or 1997

**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>
Attorney	Public Defender's Office	2725 Judge Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940	Oct, 1993- June, 1996
Attorney	Deratany & Taylor	105 S. Riverside Drive, Indialantic	June, 1996- Oct, 1997
Attorney/Owner	Law office of Suzanne J. Taylor	96 Willard Street, Cocoa, FL 32922	Oct. 1997- March 2001
Instructor	Brevard Community College	Cocoa, Fl	Jan, 2000- May, 2000
Attorney/Supervising Attorney	Department of Children and Families	4050 Riomar Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955	May, 2002- Jan. 2008
Paralegal	Children's Legal Services	4050 Riomar Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955	June, 2008- Jan. 2013
Temporary Attorney	Children's Legal Services	4050 Riomar Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955	Jan. 2013- Dec. 2013
Sr. Best Interest Attorney	Guardian ad Litem Program	2825 Judge Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940	August, 2014- Present

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.

I represent the Guardian ad Litem Program in cases where appointed by the dependency judge for children under the jurisdiction of dependency court. The program assigns an attorney, a Child Advocacy Manager (employee of the agency) and a volunteer guardian ad litem to represent each child in dependency court. I am certified as a Juvenile Law specialist. My current practice is substantially similar to what I've been doing since 1998, when I began practicing dependency law. However, I have represented three different types of parties in that time. I began representing parents, moved to the Department of Children and Families for about 12 years, and have spent the last four years with the Guardian ad Litem Program.

Prior to that, in private practice I took a number of cases, including family law, dependency, criminal, and a smattering of others. Before private practice, I practiced solely criminal defense. My typical current clients are representatives of the Guardian ad Litem Program, staff and volunteers, and we work together to determine what is the best interest of each child to whom we are assigned and how to achieve that goal. Typical problems in this work include dealing with crises in the children's lives such as mental health problems, juvenile delinquency problems, trauma from abuse/abandonment/neglect, school issues, and problems related to family poverty. In private practice, I primarily practiced criminal defense, dependency, and family law. Criminal clients sought relief from criminal charges. Dependency clients sought the return of their children or defense to attempts to terminate their parental rights. Family law clients sought efficient divorce proceedings or paternity actions.

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	_____	0 %	Civil	_____
Federal Trial	_____	0 %	Criminal	_____
Federal Other	_____	0 %	Family	_____
State Appellate	_____	0 %	Probate	_____
State Trial	_____	100 %	Other	_____
State Administrative	_____	0 %		
State Other	_____	0 %		
	_____	%		
<b>TOTAL</b>	_____	<b>100 %</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	_____
				<b>100 %</b>

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

were:

Jury?	<u>Approx. 25</u>	Non-jury?	<u>Approx. 25-30</u>
Arbitration?	<u>0</u>	Administrative Bodies?	<u>0</u>

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).

In re: F.B., 05-2017-DP-1484, Cassandra Elken (321-674-1880); Beth Cutshall and Joe Conti (321-752-3115). (Jan, 2019)

In re: K.A., 05-2017-DP-2101, Cassandra Elken (321-674-1880); Beth Cutshall (321-752-3115). (December, 2018)

In re: W.B., 05-2017-DP-2272, Samantha Gordon, (321-637-7381) ; Sean Anderson (321-453-4447), Randol Masters (321-394-8816), Luis Basagoitia (407-541-0704). (August, 2018)

In re: K.A., 05-2016-DP-2173. Cassandra Elken (321-674-1880), Randol Masters (321-394-8816). (April, 2018)

In re: J.B., 05-2015-DP-1657. Angela Park (321-637-7381), David Baker (321-631-8487), Lillian Clover (321-267-8833). (March, 2018)

In re: I.B., R.B., and L.B., 05-2013-DP-4495. Angela Park (321-637-7381), Beth Cutshall (321-752-3115), Tracy Newman (321-549-8187). (January, 2018)



- 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).

In re: D.A., 05-2019-DP-768; Angela Park (321-637-7381), Randol Masters (321- 394-8816).

In re: J.B., A.B., L.B., A.B., and J.B., 05-2016-DP-1490; Cassandra Elken (321-674-1880), Sean Anderson (321-453-4447), Beth Cutshall (321-752-3115).

In re: A.B., and S.B., 05-2019-DP-637; Joseph Conti (321-752-3115), and Cassandra Elken (321-674-1880).

In re: D.T., 05-2015-DP-2647; Angela Sturm (321-674-1880) and Sean Anderson (321-453-4447).

In re: M.B., M.B., and G.N., 05-2018-DP-2090; Angela Park (321-637-7381), Beth Cutshall (321-752-3115), and Lillian Clover (321-267-8833).

In re: O.A., Z.A., A.H., and C.H., 05-2018-DP-1805; Angela Park (321-637-7381), Lindsey Sharp (321-951-7600), Randol Masters (321-394-8816), and Kevin Rutledge (321-536-3447).

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

- 27d. During the last five years, how frequently have you appeared in Court?  
50 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? N/A% Defendants?  
N/A%

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.

N/A

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.

1. State v. Jones, 05-1995-CF-024206-AXXX. Circuit Court, Judge Edward Richardson. Lia Allawas for the State Attorney. My client was the defendant, who was charged with Armed Burglary of a Dwelling, and Robbery with a Deadly Weapon. I filed a motion to suppress my client's confession, which I argued was obtained following a lengthy, improper interrogation. The motion was granted. Despite there being no other evidence to identify my client, a trial was held on March 27, 1996, and the defendant acquitted. This case was significant because it was the first time I was successful at suppressing evidence in a case with serious charges and securing an acquittal.

2. In re: C.H. and A.L., 05-1998-DP-2299 and 05-1998-DP-4599. Circuit Court, Judge Kerry Evander. Kelly McKibben and Kelly Swartz for the Department of Children and Families, Sean Anderson for the Father. My client was the Mother, against whom the State had filed a petition to terminate her parental rights following the death of one of the Mother's children. The trial was held on December 6, 8, 9, 13, and 15, 1999. The petition was granted. I also filed the appeal on behalf of the Mother, but the final judgment was affirmed. This case was significant to me because it was the first big trial on a petition for termination of parental rights regarding the death of a child, and the first time I observed autopsy photos of a child victim. The Mother and Father were later convicted and remain in prison.

3. In re: J.B., 05-2014-DP-537. Circuit Court, Judge Kelly McKibben. Greg Eisenmenger for the Mother, Edward Park for the State, Krystal Wald for the Father. Trial was held on August 10, 11, 12 and 15, 2015. I took over as petitioner when another attorney in my office transferred and the trial was set with a judicial advisement that no further continuances would be allowed. I had about two weeks to prepare for trial (as well as another I also inherited, set for the week after this trial) and now know I had inadequate time to fully understand all the factors involved. The petition for termination of the mother's parental rights was denied, and she was ordered to complete a case plan. The case is significant because it made clear to me that despite having solid evidence on one factor, I cannot give short shrift to other factors.

4. In re: J.R. and J.R., 05-2003-DP-32. Circuit Court, Judge John Griesbaum. Shari Wilson for the Mother, George Paulk for the Guardian ad Litem Program. My client was the Department of Children and Families. The trial was on my Petition for Termination of Parental Rights, based on the death of a child. The case was significant to me because

the trial required me to prove the facts underlying the criminal charges the Mother faced as well as others related solely to her parental rights. The Court found all grounds proved.

5. State v. Koonce, 05-1995-CF-958-AXXX. Circuit Court, Judge Tonya Rainwater. Phil Williams for the State. I represented the defendant, who was charged with animal cruelty. The State's theory was that the defendant had intended to sexually assault a cat, but was interrupted by a police officer. Every hearing had animal rights spectators present, and there was a lot of press attention. My client decided to enter a plea to the charges without a plea agreement and argue to the Court for a non-incarcerative sentence. There were numerous mitigating factors, and when we presented those to the Court, the sentence was community control and probation, rather than prison. This case was significant to me because it was my first time dealing with such intense press and public interest.

6. In re: W.B., 05-2017-DP-2272, Circuit Court, Judge Charles Crawford. Sean Anderson for the Father, Randol Masters for the Mother, Samantha Gordon for the State, Luis Basagoitia for the Child. My client was the Guardian ad Litem Program and the trial was based upon my petition for termination of parental rights (TPR), which I filed when the State decided not to proceed with their petition for TPR. The trial lasted 3 days and was heard over a five month period. The case was significant because it was a complicated case involving medical records from two hospitals, the Child Protection Team, and an additional doctor. In addition, the State was initially opposed to our petition but by the end of the trial was seeking the same result as the GAL.

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.

I do not do much extensive writing in my current position. However, I write a lot of petitions, motions, and proposed orders. I have attached a motion and petition for termination of parental rights (redacted as appropriate) for a case I recently drafted and filed. These writings were done 100% by me.

**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.

No

32b. List any prior quasi-judicial service:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Position Held</i>
N/A		

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

**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 XX 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 XX 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 XX 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?  
No
- 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.  
Yes. Suzanne Taylor v. David L. Crane, 05-1997-SC-6350, County court, Brevard County. I filed a small claims action against a former client for nonpayment of legal fees. Mr. Crane did not contest the judgment, and it was granted. I have never attempted to execute the judgment.
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).  
No
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.

For our 2017 return,  
we paid a penalty of  
\$29 for under-  
withholding during  
the year. \_\_\_\_\_

- 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.

Finalist, Social Service Volunteer Award, Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (2018)

Guardian ad Litem Commitment to Children award (2016)

DCF Outstanding Performance Award (2005)

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

None

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 Association of Women Lawyers (no office held)

Brevard County Bar Association (no office held)

- 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.

Vassar Carlton Inn of Court (no office held)

Florida/National Associations of Criminal Defense Lawyers (no office held)

Merritt Island Breakfast Rotary Club, Secretary 1999-2000, 2000-2001

Zonta Club (no office held)

Junior League (no office held)

Healthy Start Coalition, Board member approx. 1999-2000

48c. List your hobbies or other vocational interests.

Travel, tennis, reading, volunteering

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.

Legal Aid Clinic, Brevard County Legal Aid, a few times in the 1990s.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

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

Juvenile dependency 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?

No

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

I have held positions related to law from secretary, to paralegal, to attorney, to supervisor to partner. I feel this gives me a well-rounded understanding of all the aspects of a law firm or agency.

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

I believe I am fair-minded, justice-seeking, concerned with preventing problems before they occur and taking action to ameliorate problems which have occurred, seeking justice for all parties to an action, and protecting the status of the judiciary. I am also very organized and have good time management skills. I manage a current case load of



about 80 cases and, though not required to do so, have taken on the role of petitioner in a number of dependency/termination of parental rights cases to expedite permanency for the involved children.

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.

N/A

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

I believe that I have a good understanding of the issues faced by many citizens of Brevard County. As a wife, I am familiar with family and domestic issues. As a mother, I am familiar with the public school system and issues facing children and teens. As a former sole proprietor of a law firm, I am familiar with the requirements to successfully run a local business. As an agency employee, I am familiar with the limitations applicable to each agency's mandate. Most importantly, I have a strong desire to make our world a better place for those adversely affected by events in their lives, or the actions of others, and to accomplish justice on a case-by-case basis.

#### **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.

John Hubbard, Guardian ad Litem Program, 2825 Judge Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940; 321-690-6823

Kelly Swartz, Guardian ad Litem Program, 600 S. Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301; (850) 922-7205

Sharlene Gianfortune, Guardian ad Litem Program, 2825 Judge Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940; 321-213-3264

Kelly McKibben, Circuit Court Judge, 2825 Judge Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940; 321-617-7258

Heather Harris, Attorney, 650 S Courtenay Pkwy Ste 101, Merritt Island, FL 32952-4977; 321-452-7055

Ashley Severance, Attorney, 2126 Pineapple Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32935-6627; 321-574-8688

Jennifer Taylor, Circuit Court Judge, 2825 Judge Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940; 321-617-7287

Meriah Park, Children's Legal Services, 4050 Riomar Drive, Suite 120, Rockledge, FL 32955; 321-637-7381

Tonya Rainwater, Circuit Court Judge, 2825 Judge Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940; 321-617-7283

Randol Masters, Attorney, 1900 S Harbor City Blvd Ste 124, Melbourne, FL 32901-4725; 321-394-8816



**CERTIFICATE**

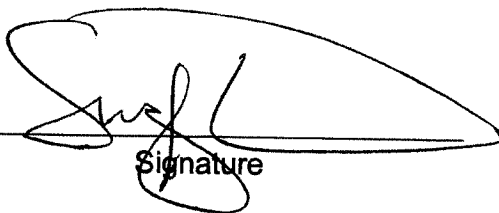
I have read the foregoing questions carefully and have answered them truthfully, fully and completely. I hereby waive notice by and authorize The Florida Bar or any of its committees, educational and other institutions, the Judicial Qualifications Commission, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners or any 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 12th day of April, 2019.

Suzanne J. Taylor

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.*

## FINANCIAL HISTORY

1. State the amount of gross income you have earned, or losses you have incurred (before deducting expenses and taxes) from the practice of law for the preceding three-year period. This income figure should be stated on a year to year basis and include year to date information, and salary, if the nature of your employment is in a legal field.

Current year to date	13,200.93		
List Last 3 years	51,345.41	46,553.73	42,832.43

2. State the amount of net income you have earned, or losses you have incurred (after deducting expenses but not taxes) from the practice of law for the preceding three-year period. This income figure should be stated on a year to year basis and include year to date information, and salary, if the nature of your employment is in a legal field.

Current year to date	9,647.45		
List Last 3 years	44,254.06	41,557.11	39,947.45

3. State the gross amount of income or losses incurred (before deducting expenses or taxes) you have earned in the preceding three years on a year by year basis from all sources other than the practice of law, and generally describe the source of such income or losses.

Current year to date	0		
List Last 3 years	17.98 (dividend)	16.13 (dividend)	20.22 (dividend)

4. State the amount of net income you have earned or losses incurred (after deducting expenses) from all sources other than the practice of law for the preceding three-year period on a year by year basis, and generally describe the sources of such income or losses.

Current year to date	0		
List Last 3 years	approx. 17.00	approx 16.00	approx. 20.00

**FORM 6  
FULL AND PUBLIC  
DISCLOSURE OF  
FINANCIAL INTEREST**

**PART A - NET WORTH**

Please enter the value of your net worth as of December 31 or a more current date. [Note: Net worth is not calculated by subtracting your *reported* liabilities from your *reported* assets, so please see the instructions on page 3.]

My net worth as of April 1, 2019 was \$700,000.

**PART B - ASSETS**

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:**

Household goods and personal effects may be reported in a lump sum if their aggregate value exceeds \$1,000. This category includes any of the following, if not held for investment purposes; jewelry; collections of stamps, guns, and numismatic items; art objects; household equipment and furnishings; clothing; other household items; and vehicles for personal use.

The aggregate value of my household goods and personal effects (described above) is \$ 52,000

**ASSETS INDIVIDUALLY VALUED AT OVER \$1,000:**

DESCRIPTION OF ASSET (specific description is required - see instructions p. 3)

**VALUE OF ASSET**

DESCRIPTION OF ASSET (specific description is required - see instructions p. 3)	VALUE OF ASSET
IRAs	60,000
Brokerage accounts	1,500
Other retirement accounts	250,000
Residence	350,000
Bank accounts	30,000
529 Accounts (college)	75,000

**PART C - LIABILITIES**

LIABILITIES IN EXCESS OF \$1,000 (See instructions on page 4):

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR

AMOUNT OF LIABILITY

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR	AMOUNT OF LIABILITY
Home mortgage	120,000

JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITIES NOT REPORTED ABOVE:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR

AMOUNT OF LIABILITY

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR	AMOUNT OF LIABILITY
None	

**PART D - INCOME**

You may **EITHER** (1) file a complete copy of your latest federal income tax return, including all W2's, schedules, and attachments, **OR** (2) file a sworn statement identifying each separate source and amount of income which exceeds \$1,000 including secondary sources of income, by completing the remainder of Part D, below.

I elect to file a copy of my latest federal income tax return and all W2's, schedules, and attachments.  
 (if you check this box and attach a copy of your latest tax return, you need not complete the remainder of Part D.)

**PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME (See instructions on page 5):**

NAME OF SOURCE OF INCOME EXCEEDING \$1,000	ADDRESS OF SOURCE OF INCOME	AMOUNT

**SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME [Major customers, clients, etc., of businesses owned by reporting person—see instructions on page 6]**

NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITY	NAME OF MAJOR SOURCES OF BUSIENS'S INCOME	ADDRESS OF SOURCE	PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY OF SOURCE

**PART E – INTERESTS IN SPECIFIC BUSINESS [Instructions on page 7]**

	BUSINESS ENTITY #1	BUSINESS ENTITY #2	BUSINESS ENTITY #3
NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITTY	None		
ADDRESS OF BUSINESS ENTITY			
PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY			
POSITION HELD WITH ENTITY			
I OWN MORE THAN A 5% INTEREST IN THE BUSINESS			
NATURE OF MY OWNERSHIP INTEREST			

**IF ANY OF PARTS A THROUGH E ARE CONTINUED ON A SEPARATE SHEET, PLEASE CHECK HERE**

**OATH**

I, the person whose name appears at the beginning of this form, do depose on oath or affirmation and say that the information disclosed on this form and any attachments hereto is true, accurate, and complete.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 SIGNATURE

**STATE OF FLORIDA**

**COUNTY OF Brevard**

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019 by Suzanne J. Taylor:

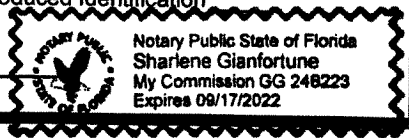
(Signature of Notary Public—State of Florida)

*[Handwritten Signature]*

(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)

Personally Known  OR Produced Identification

Type of Identification Produced



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM 6:

**PUBLIC RECORD:** The disclosure form and everything attached to it is a public record. Your Social Security Number is not required and you should redact it from any documents you file. If you are an active or former officer or employee listed in Section 119.071(4)(d), F.S., whose home address is exempt from disclosure, the Commission is required to maintain the confidentiality of your home address if you submit a written request for confidentiality.

### PART A – NET WORTH

Report your net worth as of December 31 or a more current date, and list that date. This should be the same date used to value your assets and liabilities. In order to determine your net worth, you will need to total the value of all your assets and subtract the amount of all of your liabilities. Simply subtracting the liabilities reported in Part C from the assets reported in Part B will not result in an accurate net worth figure in most cases.

To total the value of your assets, add:

- (1) The aggregate value of household goods and personal effects, as reported in Part B of this form;
- (2) The value of all assets worth over \$1,000, as reported in Part B; and
- (3) The total value of any assets worth less than \$1,000 that were not reported or included in the category of "household goods and personal effects."

To total the amount of your liabilities, add:

- (1) The total amount of each liability you reported in Part C of this form, except for any amounts listed in the "joint and several liabilities not reported above" portion; and,
- (2) The total amount of unreported liabilities (including those under \$1,000, credit card and retail installment accounts, and taxes owed).

### PART B – ASSETS WORTH MORE THAN \$1,000

#### HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:

The value of your household goods and personal effects may be aggregated and reported as a lump sum, if their aggregate value exceeds \$1,000. The types of assets that can be reported in this manner are described on the form.

#### ASSETS INDIVIDUALLY VALUED AT MORE THAN \$1,000:

Provide a description of each asset you had on the reporting date chosen for your net worth (Part A), that was worth more than \$1,000 and that is not included as household goods and personal effects, and list its value. Assets include: interests in real property; tangible and intangible personal property, such as cash, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, interests in partnerships, beneficial interest in a trust, promissory notes owed to you, accounts received by you, bank accounts, assets held in IRAs, Deferred Retirement Option Accounts, and Florida Prepaid College Plan accounts. You are not required to disclose assets owned solely by your spouse.

#### How to Identify or Describe the Asset:

— Real property: Identify by providing the street address of the property. If the property has no street address, identify by describing the property's location in a manner sufficient to enable a member of the public to ascertain its location without resorting to any other source of information.

— Intangible property: Identify the type of property and the business entity or person to which or to whom it relates. Do not list simply "stocks and bonds" or "bank accounts." For example, list "Stock (Williams Construction Co.)," "Bonds (Southern Water and Gas)," "Bank accounts (First

National Bank), "Smith family trust," Promissory note and mortgage (owed by John and Jane Doe)."

#### **How to Value Assets:**

- Value each asset by its fair market value on the date used in Part A for your net worth.
- Jointly held assets: If you hold real or personal property jointly with another person, your interest equals your legal percentage of ownership in the property. However, assets that are held as tenants by the entirety or jointly with right of survivorship must be reported at 100% of their value.
- Partnerships: You are deemed to own an interest in a partnership which corresponds to your interest in the equity of that partnership.
- Trusts: You are deemed to own an interest in a trust which corresponds to your percentage interest in the trust corpus.
- Real property may be valued at its market value for tax purposes, unless a more accurate appraisal of its fair market value is available.
- Marketable securities which are widely traded and whose prices are generally available should be valued based upon the closing price on the valuation date.
- Accounts, notes, and loans receivable: Value at fair market value, which generally is the amount you reasonably expect to collect.
- Closely-held businesses: Use any method of valuation which in your judgment most closely approximates fair market value, such as book value, reproduction value, liquidation value, capitalized earnings value, capitalized cash flow value, or value established by "buy-out" agreements. It is suggested that the method of valuation chosen be indicated in a footnote on the form.
- Life insurance: Use cash surrender value less loans against the policy, plus accumulated dividends.

## **PART C—LIABILITIES**

### **LIABILITIES IN EXCESS OF \$1,000:**

List the name and address of each creditor to whom you were indebted on the reporting date chosen for your net worth (Part A) in an amount that exceeded \$1,000 and list the amount of the liability. Liabilities include: accounts payable; notes payable; interest payable; debts or obligations to governmental entities other than taxes (except when the taxes have been reduced to a judgment); and judgments against you. You are not required to disclose liabilities owned *solely* by your spouse.

You do not have to list on the form any of the following: credit card and retail installment accounts, taxes owed unless the taxes have been reduced to a judgment), indebtedness on a life insurance policy owned to the company of issuance, or contingent liabilities. A "contingent liability" is one that will become an actual liability only when one or more future events occur or fail to occur, such as where you are liable only as a partner (without personal liability) for partnership debts, or where you are liable only as a guarantor, surety, or endorser on a promissory note. If you are a "co-maker" on a note and have signed as being jointly liable or jointly and severally liable, then this is not a contingent liability.

#### **How to Determine the Amount of a Liability:**

- Generally, the amount of the liability is the face amount of the debt.
- If you are the only person obligated to satisfy a liability, 100% of the liability should be listed.



— If you are jointly and severally liable with another person or entity, which often is the case where more than one person is liable on a promissory note, you should report here only the portion of the liability that corresponds to your percentage of liability. *However*, if you are jointly and severally liable for a debt relating to property you own with one or more others as tenants by the entirety or jointly, with right of survivorship, report 100% of the total amount owed.

— If you are only jointly (not jointly and severally) liable with another person or entity, your share of the liability should be determined in the same way as you determined your share of jointly held assets.

**Examples:**

— You owe \$10,000 to a bank for student loans, \$5,000 for credit card debts, and \$60,000 with your spouse to a saving and loan for the mortgage on the home you own with your spouse. You must report the name and address of the bank (\$10,000 being the amount of that liability) and the name and address of the savings and loan (\$60,000 being the amount of this liability). The credit cards debts need not be reported.

— You and your 50% business partner have a \$100,000 business loan from a bank and you both are jointly and severally liable. Report the name and address of the bank and \$50,000 as the amount of the liability. If your liability for the loan is only as a partner, without personal liability, then the loan would be a contingent liability.

**JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITIES NOT REPORTED ABOVE:**

List in this part of the form the amount of each debt, for which you were jointly and severally liable, that is not reported in the "Liabilities in Excess of \$1,000" part of the form. Example: You and your 50% business partner have a \$100,000 business loan from a bank and you both are jointly and severally liable. Report the name and address of the bank and \$50,000 as the amount of the liability, as you reported the other 50% of the debt earlier.

**PART D – INCOME**

As noted on the form, you have the option of either filing a copy of your latest federal income tax return, including all schedules, W2's and attachments, with Form 6, or completing Part D of the form. If you do not attach your tax return, you must complete Part D.

**PRIMARY SOURCES OF INCOME:**

List the name of each source of income that provided you with more than \$1,000 of income during the year, the address of that source, and the amount of income received from that source. The income of your spouse need not be disclosed; however, if there is a joint income to you and your spouse from property you own jointly (such as interest or dividends from a bank account or stocks), you should include all of that income.

"Income" means the same as "gross income" for federal income tax purposes, even if the income is not actually taxable, such as interest on tax-free bonds. Examples of income include: compensation for services, gross income from business, gains from property dealings, interest, rents, dividends, pensions, IRA distributions, distributive share of partnership gross income, and alimony, but not child support. Where income is derived from a business activity you should report that income to you, as calculated for income tax purposes, rather than the income to the business.

**Examples:**

— If you owned stock in and were employed by a corporation and received more than \$1,000 of income (salary, commissions, dividends, etc.) from the company, you should list the name of the company, its address, and the total amount of income received from it.

— If you were a partner in a law firm and your distributive share of partnership gross income exceeded \$1,000, you should list the name of the firm, its address, and the amount of your distributive share.

— If you received dividend or interest income from investments in stocks and bonds, list only each individual company from which you received more than \$1,000. Do not aggregate income from all of these investments.

— If more than \$1,000 of income was gained from the sale of property, then you should list as a source of income the name of the purchaser, the purchaser's address, and the amount of gain from the sale. If the purchaser's identity is unknown, such as where securities listed on an exchange are sold through a brokerage firm, the source of income should be listed simply as "sale of (name of company) stock," for example.

— If more than \$1,000 of your income was in the form of interest from one particular financial institution (aggregating interest from all CD's, accounts, etc., at that institution), list the name of the institution, its address, and the amount of income from that institution.

**SECONDARY SOURCE OF INCOME:**

This part is intended to require the disclosure of major customers, clients, and other sources of income to businesses in which you own an interest. It is not for reporting income from second jobs. That kind of income should be reported as a "Primary Source of Income." You will *not* have anything to report **unless:**

(1) You owned (either directly or indirectly in the form of an equitable or beneficial interest) during the disclosure period, more than 5% of the total assets or capital stock of a business entity (a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, LLC, proprietorship, joint venture, trust, firm, etc., doing business in Florida); and

(2) You received more than \$1,000 in gross income from that business entity during the period.

If your ownership and gross income exceeded the two thresholds listed above, then for that business entity you must list every source of income to the business entity which exceeded 10% of the business entity's gross income (computed on the basis of the business entity's more recently completed fiscal year), the source's address, the source's principal business activity, and the name of the business entity in which you owned an interest. You do not have to list the amount of income the business derived from that major source of income.

**Examples:**

— You are the sole proprietor of a dry cleaning business, from which you received more than \$1,000 in gross income last year. If only one customer, a uniform rental company, provided more than 10% of your dry cleaning business, you must list the name of your business, the name of the uniform rental company, its address, and its principal business activity (uniform rentals).

— You are a 20% partner in a partnership that owns a shopping mall and your gross partnership income exceeded \$1,000. You should list the name of the partnership, the name of each tenant of the mall that provided more than 10% of the partnership's gross income, the tenant's address and principal business activity.



## JUDICIAL APPLICATION DATA RECORD

The judicial application shall include a separate page asking applicants to identify their race, ethnicity and gender. Completion of this page shall be optional, and the page shall include an explanation that the information is requested for data collection purposes in order to assess and promote diversity in the judiciary. The chair of the Commission shall forward all such completed pages, along with the names of the nominees to the JNC Coordinator in the Governor's Office (pursuant to JNC Uniform Rule of Procedure).

(Please Type or Print)

Date: April 12, 2019

JNC Submitting To: Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

Name (please print): Suzanne J. Taylor

Current Occupation: Attorney

Telephone Number: 321-690-6823 Attorney No.: 0988758

Gender (check one):  Male  Female

Ethnic Origin (check one):  White, non Hispanic

Hispanic

Black

American Indian/Alaskan Native

Asian/Pacific Islander

County of Residence: Brevard

*FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT*

**DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO THE  
FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT (FCRA)**

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) may obtain one or more consumer reports, including but not limited to credit reports, about you, for employment purposes as defined by the Fair Credit Reporting Act, including for determinations related to initial employment, reassignment, promotion, or other employment-related actions.

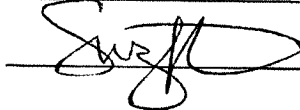
**CONSUMER'S AUTHORIZATION FOR FDLE  
TO OBTAIN CONSUMER REPORT(S)**

I have read and understand the above Disclosure. I authorize the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to obtain one or more consumer reports on me, for employment purposes, as described in the above Disclosure.

Printed Name of  
Applicant:

Suzanne J. Taylor

Signature of Applicant:



Date:

4/12/19