APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE COUNTY COURT OF THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BREVARD COUNTY

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: Suzanne (Suzi) Bentley **Social Security No.:** [redacted]

Florida Bar No.: 12854 **Date Admitted to Practice in Florida: June 24, 2005**

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.

   Employer: State of Florida, Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
   Title: Senior Trial Court Staff Attorney
   Business Address: Moore Justice Center, 2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940
   Telephone: (321) 417-2773

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), and your preferred email address.

   Current Residential Address: 3930 Playa Del Sol Drive, Unit 104, Rockledge, FL 32955
   Length of Time at Current Residence: 3 years 7 months
   Length of Time as a Resident of Florida: 49 years
   Cell Phone: (321) 417-2773
   Email: suzi.bentley@flcourts18.org; suzannejill@outlook.com

3. State your birthdate and place of birth.

   Birthdate: April 7, 1971
   Place of Birth: Montgomery, AL

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.

   I was admitted to the Florida Bar on June 24, 2005, and have maintained my status as an active member in good standing.

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

Maiden name: Suzanne Costellic (1971 – 1997)
Former married name: Suzanne McQuagge (1997 – 2024)
Nickname/alternate first name: Suzi (1971 – present)

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).

Barry University School of Law, attended Fall 2002 – Fall 2004
Juris Doctor, December 31, 2004; GPA 2.972; no class rank for second degree
(Returned to complete the additional legal education required due to the timing of the school's ABA accreditation; one of 109 students affected.)

Barry University of Orlando School of Law, attended Fall 1996 – Spring 2000
Juris Doctor, cum laude, June 11, 2000; GPA 3.23; class rank 7/34

Oklahoma City University School of Law, attended Fall 1995 – Spring 1996
Juris Doctor program – no degree received

University of Central Florida, attended Fall 1991 – Spring 1994
Bachelor of Arts, May 7, 1994; GPA 3.313; UCF does not rank undergraduate students

Florida State University, attended Fall 1989 – Summer 1991
Associate of Arts, August 16, 1991; GPA 2.697; FSU does not rank undergraduate students

Satellite High School, attended Fall 1986 – Spring 1989
High School Diploma, June 6, 1989; GPA 3.255; SHS unable to provide class rank

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.

Barry University of Orlando School of Law – Moot Court Board, Member, 1998
Description: Student organization focused on legal research and oral argument. Invited to serve based on performance in Legal Research and Writing II.

Oklahoma City University School of Law – Student Bar Association/Board of Governors, Class Representative, 1995-1996
Description: Selected as a representative of my class to the Student Bar Association/Board of Governors; attended meetings, participated in discussions and voting, and reported matters back to my classmates. Also served on the committee for the law school's softball tournament.

University of Central Florida –

Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity Member, 1993-1994
Description: Pre-law fraternity providing students interested in the legal profession with opportunities for professional development, education about the legal field, and interaction with other students pursuing legal careers.

Delta Gamma Fraternity, Epsilon Tau Chapter, Member and Chapter Officer/Leader, 1991-1994
Description: International women's fraternity focused on sisterhood, leadership, scholarship, service, and philanthropy.
Held the following positions: Pledge Class Vice President; Corresponding Secretary; Chapter Programming Board Member; Philanthropic Chair; Social Chair. Participated in chapter leadership, programming, communications, philanthropic activities, and social activities.

UCF Panhellenic Council, Extension Chair; Panhellenic Rush Counselor, 1993-1994
Description: Selected through an application process to serve on the Panhellenic Council. As Extension Chair, participated in efforts to expand and develop the university's Greek system. Selected to serve as a Panhellenic Rush Counselor (Rho Chi), assisting and advising prospective sorority members during the recruitment process.

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.

Senior Trial Court Staff Attorney
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940
March 2006 – present

General Magistrate
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940
July 2021 – April 2023

Independent Legal Writer
Suzanne McQuagge, P.A.
730 E. Strawbridge Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32901
July 2005 – March 2006

Adjunct Instructor
Brevard Community College (now Eastern Florida State College)
1519 Clearlake Road, Cocoa, FL 32922
August 2000 – May 2003

Law Clerk
Mario, Moreau, Gunde, Peters & Rhoden, P.A.
319 Riveredge Boulevard, Suite 107, Cocoa, FL 32923
June 2000 – July 2001

Law Clerk
Arthur W. Neirgarth, Jr., P.A.
2285 W. Eau Gallie Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32935
July 1999 – September 1999

Legal Intern
Office of the Public Defender
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940
January 1999 – May 1999

Paralegal
Scott R. Dwyer, P.A.
4241 N. Harbor City Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32935
November 1994 – July 1995

College Internship (Assistant to Promotions Director)
WOCL-FM (then "Cool 105.9," now "105.9 Sunny FM")
1993 address: 2101 S.R. 434, Suite 305, Longwood, FL 32779
Current address: 1800 Pembrook Drive, Suite 400, Orlando, FL; 407-919-1000
May 1993 – August 1993

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.

I do not currently maintain a private law practice. For more than twenty years, I have devoted my legal career to public service within the Florida judicial branch, serving as a Trial Court Staff Attorney. My work has not involved representing individual clients or advocating for a particular party. My job has been to provide objective legal analysis to assist the court in resolving the issues presented by the parties.

As a Trial Court Staff Attorney, I have provided legal research and analysis and prepared legal memoranda, proposed orders, and recommendations for trial court judges handling civil and criminal matters in both county and circuit court. My responsibilities include reviewing pleadings, motions, evidence, records, transcripts, and digital recordings; researching and analyzing applicable statutes, rules, and case law; and evaluating the competing arguments presented by the parties. I have worked on complex substantive and procedural issues and assisted judges in applying the law to the facts and circumstances presented.

For approximately two years during my tenure as a staff attorney, I also served part-time as a General Magistrate. I conducted civil hearings, considered evidence and legal arguments, applied the law to the facts presented, ruled on evidentiary issues, managed proceedings involving attorneys and self-represented litigants, and prepared recommendations for judicial review. Serving in these two positions provided me

with extensive experience assisting judges in the resolution of cases and direct experience presiding over court proceedings.

Because my career has been within the judiciary, I have not had clients or former clients in the traditional private-practice sense. The parties appearing before the court have been parties to litigation, and my professional responsibility has been to evaluate the legal and factual issues objectively rather than advocate for either side. Thus, my legal career has been substantially different from a traditional client-based practice and has focused on serving the courts and the public through legal analysis and judicial writing in my role as a staff attorney, as well as direct experience conducting hearings as a General Magistrate.

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	0 %	Civil	0 %
Federal Trial	0 %	Criminal	0 %
Federal Other	0 %	Family	0 %
State Appellate	0 %	Probate	0 %
State Trial	0 %	Other	0 %
State Administrative	0 %		
State Other	0 %		
TOTAL	100 %	TOTAL	100 %

I have entered 0% in the categories above because, during the applicable period, I did not appear in court as an attorney representing or advocating on behalf of a party. As a trial court staff attorney, I attended hearings and trials when necessary, reviewed court recordings and transcripts, and provided legal research and analysis to assist judges in resolving cases.

From July 2021 through April 2023, I also served as a part-time General Magistrate, presiding over civil foreclosure hearings approximately two days a week and making recommendations to the court. Those proceedings were conducted in my capacity as a quasi-judicial officer, not as an attorney, therefore they are not included in the court-appearance percentages above.

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

Not applicable.

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

I have entered zero in each category because I have not tried a case to verdict, judgment, or final decision as an attorney representing or advocating on behalf of a party. As a Trial Court Staff Attorney, my role included attending hearings and trials when necessary and providing legal research and analysis to assist judges. From July 2021 through April 2023, I also served as a part-time General Magistrate, presiding over civil foreclosure hearings and making recommendations to the court. I did so in my capacity as a quasi-judicial officer, not as an advocate, and therefore have not included those proceedings as cases I tried.

Jury?	0	Non-jury?	0
Arbitration?	0	Administrative Bodies?	0
Appellate?	0		

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.

I have not argued or substantially participated in any case as an advocate or counsel before the United States Supreme Court, a United States Circuit Court, the Florida Supreme Court, or a Florida District Court of Appeal.

In my capacity as a Trial Court Staff Attorney, I have drafted proposed trial court orders in matters that were subsequently reviewed on appeal and, when required, assisted in preparing responses for the appellate court on behalf of the court/judge. These actions were performed in my role as court staff and not as counsel or an advocate for any party.

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.

No.

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.

No.

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*.

Not applicable. I have not tried cases to verdict or handled appeals as counsel or an advocate for a party. My experience in these areas has been in my capacity as a Trial Court Staff Attorney and part-time General Magistrate.

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*.

Not applicable. I have not represented parties in cases settled through mediation or otherwise settled without mediation or trial.

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.

I have not appeared in court as counsel during the last five years. In my capacity as a Trial Court Staff Attorney, I attend court proceedings as necessary to assist judges. From July 2021 through April 2023, while serving as a part-time General Magistrate, I presided over civil foreclosure hearings two days per week, with the number of hearings varying each week.

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.

Not applicable. My legal work is performed in my capacity as a Trial Court Staff Attorney assisting the judiciary rather than as counsel for a party in transactions or other legal matters.

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?

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable. I have not personally litigated cases as counsel for a party. My litigation experience has been obtained from the judicial side of the courtroom in my capacity as a Trial Court Staff Attorney, where I assist judges in the adjudication of cases. I have not represented or advocated for any party. Accordingly, I do not have five cases that I can accurately identify as cases I personally litigated.

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.

I have attached three proposed orders that I drafted in my capacity as a Trial Court Staff Attorney. I personally performed the legal research and analysis and drafted each of the attached writing samples. The proposed orders were prepared for judicial review and were subsequently signed by the presiding judges.

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.

No.

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.

The Eighteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission

November 10, 2021 – Not certified

March 29, 2022 – Not certified

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.

I served as a part-time General Magistrate for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit from July 2021 through April 2023. While serving as Chief Judge, Judge Lisa Davidson appointed me to establish and preside over a General Magistrate docket for residential foreclosure matters. The position was temporary and funded through resources provided to address the COVID-19 related backlog, and its duration was uncertain.

Because I was serving part-time and received referrals from four civil divisions, the judges assigned to those divisions continued to conduct their scheduled trials. The purpose of the General Magistrate docket was to create more hearing time for those judges by allowing me to handle referred residential foreclosure matters, while they maintained their existing trial calendars.

Because the docket was new, there was no established program or procedures for me to follow. During the first month of my appointment, I worked to develop the program and establish the procedures for conducting and managing the hearings. I contacted General Magistrates in other circuits to learn how they handled foreclosure matters and used that information to develop procedures for the docket. I also developed hearing procedures and guidelines, created forms and proposed orders for use following hearings, worked with court technology to establish the necessary systems, and independently managed scheduling and referrals through JACS. I performed these functions without a dedicated assistant or clerical support.

Residential foreclosure law was not an area of law I had previously researched as a Trial Court Staff Attorney, so I independently researched and learned the substantive and procedural law necessary to preside over these matters. From July 2021 through April 2023, I conducted approximately 400 hearings, generally two days each week, although the number of hearings varied from week to week.

The matters I heard included Motions for Summary Judgment, Motions for Default, Motions to Vacate Default, Motions for Leave to Amend, Motions to Strike, Motions to Dismiss, Motions to Quash Service of Process, Motions to Substitute Party Plaintiff, Motions to Disburse Surplus Funds, and other motions arising in residential foreclosure cases. During the hearings, I considered the evidence and legal arguments presented, addressed procedural and evidentiary issues, and determined whether the parties had established their entitlement to the relief requested. Following each hearing, I prepared a written Report and Recommendation for the assigned judge.

My service as General Magistrate gave me the opportunity to preside over hearings, evaluate evidence and legal arguments, manage a docket, and prepare written recommendations. It also gave me the opportunity

to establish and implement a new General Magistrate docket for the circuit at a time when the court was working to address the COVID-19-related backlog.

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;

Residential foreclosure matters were typically handled by attorneys from larger firms throughout the state, and the attorneys who appeared at hearings varied. The following attorneys appeared before me on more than one occasion, and each attorney was associated with a firm that regularly requested referrals to the General Magistrate docket.

1) Eric Levine, Esquire; Akerman L.L.P.; (561) 653-5000; 777 South Flagler Drive, Suite 1100W, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

2) Paul Huntington, Esquire; Padgett Law Group; (850) 422-2520; 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312

3) Corey Lewis, Esquire; De Cubas & Lewis, P.A; (954) 453-0365; P.O. Box 771270, Coral Springs, FL 33077

4) Anna Judd Rosenberg, Esquire; eXL Legal, P.L.L.C.; (727) 536-4911; 12425 28th Street N., Suite 200, St. Petersburg, FL 33716

5) Cassandra Jeffries, Esquire; McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, L.L.C.; (561) 713-1400; 3222 Commerce Place, Suite A, West Palm Beach, FL 33407

6) Jennifer L. Davis, Esquire; Arias Bosinger, P.L.L.C.; (321) 351-1899; 845 E. New Haven Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32901

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

During my service as General Magistrate, I conducted approximately 400 hearings involving residential foreclosure matters.

(iii) the citations of any published opinions; and

None.

(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.

The matters I heard as General Magistrate were residential foreclosure proceedings. I have selected the following five matters based on the issues presented and the circumstances of the proceedings.

1) Carrington Mortgage Services v. Abdiel Echeverria, et al.
Brevard County case number: 05-2015-CA-042159-XXXX-XX

Eric Levine, Esq., Counsel for Carrington; Abdiel Echeverria and Isabel Santamaria, pro se Report and Recommendation (docket #196) filed on December 1, 2021

This matter involved a defendant who was representing herself after her attorney withdrew and who sought to vacate a prior foreclosure judgment based on alleged due process violations and fraud upon the court. The case reinforced the importance of ensuring that a self-represented litigant has a meaningful opportunity to be heard while applying the same law and standards that apply to represented parties.

2) Suntree Master Homeowners Association, Inc. v. Gary Taylor
Brevard County case number: 05-2020-CA-047124-XXXX-XX
Jennifer Davis, Esq., Counsel for Suntree; Carl Wasileski, Esq., Counsel for Gary Taylor
Report and Recommendation (docket #21) filed on September 10, 2021

I consider this case significant because it reinforced the importance of reading the applicable rule or statute before making a ruling, even when the law seems familiar. The hearing involved an amended version of Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.510, which became effective May 1, 2021. Defense counsel was unaware of the amendment and filed materials after the deadline. As a result, the late response was not considered, and the motion was decided on the timely filed materials.

This case is a good reminder to me that the law is constantly changing and that I should never assume I know a rule simply because I have read it many times. As a judge, I believe it is important to stay current and to go back to the rule or statute itself before making a decision.

3) U.S. Bank N.A., Successor Trustee v. Estate of Miriam De Brito, et al.
Brevard County case number: 05-2022-CA-022946-XXXX-XX
Lindsay Maisonet, Esq., Counsel for U.S. Bank; Benjamin Haynes, Esq., Counsel for Lisa DeBrito and Geoffrey De Brito
Report and Recommendation (docket #57) filed on December 2, 2022, and Report and Recommendation (docket #72) filed on December 28, 2022

I consider this case significant because it involved two Report and Recommendations in the same foreclosure matter. In the first, I recommended denying plaintiff's motion for summary judgment without prejudice because the record did not show that all necessary parties had been properly served, and an affidavit supporting attorney's fees and costs was missing. The plaintiff corrected those issues and filed a second motion for summary judgment. Service was addressed, a default was entered against one defendant, and the necessary affidavits were filed. After reviewing the updated record, I recommended granting summary judgment.

The case reinforced for me the importance of carefully reviewing the record each time a matter comes before the court.

4) Forest Creek Homeowners Association, Inc. v. William and Janet Mace
Brevard County case number: 02-2022-CA-012973-XXXX-XX
Jennifer Davis, Esq., Counsel for Forest Creek; Markos Eugenios, Esq., Counsel for William and Janet Mace

Report and Recommendation (docket #27) filed on June 17, 2022, and Report and Recommendation (docket #37) filed on November 23, 2022

I consider this case significant because it required me to address a procedural issue before reaching the merits. I first reviewed the defendants' motion to set aside the Clerk's default and, after considering the applicable law and the testimony presented at the hearing, recommended that the motion be granted. After the default was set aside, the case proceeded, and I later reviewed the evidence and arguments on the merits and recommended granting the plaintiff's motion for summary judgment.

This case demonstrates the importance of addressing each stage of a case based on the law and the record before the court. Once the default was set aside, the case proceeded on the merits, and I applied the law to the evidence presented in making my recommendation.

5) Suntree Masters Homeowners Association, Inc. v. Estate of Elizabeth Lindell, et al.
Brevard County case number: 05-2021-CA-021080-XXXX-XX
Jennifer Davis, Esq., Counsel for Suntree; Defendants did not appear/no counsel of record
Report and Recommendation (docket #22) filed on May 5, 2022

This case stands out to me because I had to address procedural issues before the foreclosure could proceed. The borrower was deceased, so I recommended that a Guardian Ad Litem be appointed to conduct a diligent search for the unknown heirs. I also recommended that the hearing on the plaintiff's motion for summary judgment be reset because, under Rule 1.510(b) then in effect, the motion had not been served at least 40 days before the hearing.

I believe this case is significant because it demonstrates the need to apply the law in effect at the time of the proceeding while remaining aware of subsequent changes in the law. Effective January 1, 2025, Rule 1.510(b) was amended and no longer contains the 40-day requirement; the rule now requires the motion to be filed and served consistent with any court-ordered deadlines. Had the current rule been in effect when I heard this case, the procedural result would have been different.

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.

None.

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.

None.

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.

No.

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.

No.

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.

No.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

No.

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 would recuse myself from any case in which my former husband, Mark N. McQuagge, is a party or serves as counsel.

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.

During my term as President of the Brevard County Bar Association, I authored the following President's Messages published in *The Ex Parte*, a publication of the Brevard County Bar Association:

"President's Message," *The Ex Parte*, Vol. 7, Issue 4, October/November 2025.

"President's Message," *The Ex Parte*, Vol. 7, Issue 5, December 2025.

"President's Message," *The Ex Parte*, Vol. 8, Issue 1, February/March 2026.

"President's Message," *The Ex Parte*, Vol. 8, Issue 2, April/May 2026.

"President's Message," *The Ex Parte*, Vol. 8, Issue 3, June/July 2026.

During my term as President of the Brevard County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, I authored the following articles published in *The Ex Parte*, a publication of the Brevard County Bar Association:

"You're never too old …," August/September 2007.

"FREE to all YLD members …," October 2007.

"Be Aware …," November 2007.

"If You're Not a Member of the Young Lawyers Division,…," December 2007.

"Happy New Year!," January 2008.

"Don't let the name fool you!," February 2008.

"Please note the date change!," March 2008.

"Be Sun Smart!," April 2008.

"Support Sea Turtle Conservation," May 2008.

"Thanks for a great year!," June/July 2008.

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.

None.

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.

August 14, 2025 – Brevard County Bar Association Installation Dinner, Suntree Country Club, Melbourne, Florida. Sponsor: Brevard County Bar Association. As incoming President, I delivered remarks regarding my theme of "Connection" for the upcoming year and discussed the importance of character, competence, commitment, and strengthening connections among members of the legal community.

April 17, 2026 – Brevard County Legal Aid Gala, Suntree Country Club, Melbourne, Florida. Sponsor: Brevard County Legal Aid. In my capacity as President of the Brevard County Bar Association, I delivered opening remarks, recognized distinguished guests, and conducted the vote on the slate for the Brevard County Legal Aid Board of Directors.

May 11, 2016 – Law Day Student Award Presentations, three Brevard County schools. Sponsor: Brevard County Bar Association. As President, I visited three schools to recognize four student winners of the Brevard County Bar Association's Law Day essay and poster contests. I delivered brief remarks about Law Day and presented each student with an award.

June 25, 2026 – Brevard County Bar Association Professionalism Awards Dinner, Suntree Country Club, Melbourne, Florida. Sponsor: Brevard County Bar Association. As President, I delivered remarks regarding the purpose of the Professionalism Awards, which recognize attorneys who exemplify professionalism in the practice of law. I explained that recipients are nominated by members of the Association and selected by a committee appointed by the Professionalism Chair, who is the only BCBA Board member who serves on the committee or knows the identities of the nominees. I introduced the presenters for the awards and recognized an attorney for fifty years of practice by presenting him with a commemorative plaque.

August 13, 2026 – Brevard County Bar Association Installation Dinner, Suntree Country Club, Melbourne, Florida. Sponsor: Brevard County Bar Association. As outgoing President, I delivered remarks reflecting on the past year and individually recognized the members of the Board of Directors for their contributions to the Association during my term.

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.

From August 2000 to May 2003, I served as an Adjunct Instructor at Brevard Community College (now Eastern Florida State College), teaching Criminal Justice and Legal Studies courses to college and dual-enrollment high school students. I developed course curricula, syllabi, and instructional materials. The courses I taught included:

American Criminal Justice (Fall 2000, Fall 2001, and Fall 2002) – Examination of the philosophical and historical background of criminal justice agencies and the components of the criminal justice system, including their purposes, functions, administration, and related programs.

Drugs, Alcohol and Crime (Spring 2001, Spring 2002, and Spring 2003) – Examination of the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs, including physiological effects, social issues, control measures, public safety, and their relationship to crime.

Business Law (Fall 2001, Spring 2002, Fall 2002, and Spring 2003) – Fundamental principles of law applicable to business transactions, including the legal environment of business, contracts, sales, torts, product liability, and related legal issues.

Family Law (Spring 2002) – Study of legal principles relating to marriage, divorce and annulment, child custody and support, paternity, adoption, and guardianship.

Copies of the syllabi for each course are attached.

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.

Florida Trial Court Staff Attorney Association - Recognition for 20 Years of Service as a Trial Court Staff Attorney, September 2026

Vassar B. Carlton American Inn of Court - Team Captain Service Award, May 2024

Space Coast Honor Flight – Recognition for dedication and commitment to our veterans, April 2017

Barry University School of Law – Book Award – Florida Civil Practice, Fall 2004 and Advanced Criminal Procedure, Spring 2004

University of Central Florida – President's List, Spring 1994; Dean's List, Spring 1994 and Spring 1993

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

No.

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.

Brevard County Bar Association – Member, 2005-present

President, 2025-2026
President-Elect, 2024-2025
Treasurer, 2023-2024
Director, 2021-2023, 2026-2027
CLE Committee Chair, 2022-present
Professionalism Committee Chair, 2024-2025
YLD Liaison Committee Chair, 2021-2023
Judicial Liaison Committee, 2022-2023

Brevard County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division – Member, 2005-2010; Associate Member, 2022-present

Board Member at Large, 2008-2010
President, 2007-2008
President-Elect, 2006-2007
Secretary, 2005-2006

Brevard Bar Foundation, Board of Directors – 2006-2007

Vassar B. Carlton American Inn of Court – Member, 2005-2007; 2022-present

Executive Board, Of Counsel, 2024-present
Mentor, Team 4, 2024-2025
Captain, Team 4, 2023-2024

Florida Trial Court Staff Attorney Association – Member, 2008-present

Brevard County Association of Women Lawyers – Member, 2022-2025

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.

None.

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.

No.

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

I have not participated in pro bono legal work during the past 10 years. As a Trial Court Staff Attorney serving the judiciary, my position does not permit me to engage in the private practice of law or provide pro bono legal services.

45. Please describe any hobbies or other vocational interests.

I enjoy taking advantage of all that the great state of Florida has to offer. I love camping in Florida's state parks, fishing in its rivers, hunting in the woods, and swimming in the ocean. My husband and I enjoy doing these things together, as well as taking cruises, attending concerts, and going to UCF football and baseball games.

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.

No.

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

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/suzi.mcquagge]
Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/salty_suzi]
Tik Tok: [https://www.tiktok.com/@suzannejill]
Snapchat: [https://www.snapchat.com/s_mcquagge20]
LinkedIn: [https://www.linkedin.com/in/suzannemcquagge]

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.

Current Marital Status: Married
Spouse's name: Brian Bentley
Occupation/Employer: Owner of a Pillar to Post Home Inspectors franchise
Date of Marriage: December 3, 2024

Former spouse: Mark N. McQuagge; 834 Hawthorne Drive, Melbourne, FL 32935; 321-917-3598; divorced October 2, 2019, in Brevard County, Florida, in the Circuit Court of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit; Case No. 05-2019-DR-045801-XXXX-XX.

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.

Step-son: Bryce William Bentley, age 17

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.

Yes. Misdemeanor trespassing; State of Florida v. Suzanne Costellic, Case No. CTC9002519MM; April 16, 1990. Adjudication was withheld. I was ordered to pay $75.00 in court costs, complete 25 hours of community service, and serve six months of probation. All requirements were completed, and probation was terminated on April 30, 1990. See Question 51 for additional details.

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.

Yes. During my freshman year at Florida State University, I participated in a fraternity prank that resulted in my arrest for misdemeanor trespassing. On April 16, 1990, I entered a plea of nolo contendere in the County Court of Leon County. Adjudication was withheld, and I was ordered to pay $75.00 in court costs, complete 25 hours of community service, and serve six months of probation. I completed the requirements early, and my probation was terminated on April 30, 1990.

The case was styled State of Florida v. Suzanne Costellic, Case No. CTC9002519MM.

This was my first and only offense. I was subsequently permitted to have the record sealed. I later had the record unsealed so that I could provide complete information to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

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.

Yes. The arrest referenced in Questions 50 and 51 occurred on February 27, 1990, in Leon County, Florida. The Tallahassee Police Department issued a Notice to Appear for misdemeanor trespassing. The matter was resolved as described in Question 51. This was my only arrest, and I have never been arrested for any other offense, whether or not charges were filed.

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.

Yes. I was the Petitioner in a dissolution of marriage proceeding filed in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Brevard County, Florida. The case was styled Suzanne McQuagge v. Mark McQuagge, Case No. 05-2019-DR-045801-XXXX-XX. The matter was resolved by a Stipulated Final Judgment of Simplified Dissolution of Marriage entered on October 2, 2019.

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?

No.

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.

No.

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.

No.

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.

No.

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.

No.

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.

No.

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

No.

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 and deadlines.

HEALTH

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

No.

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.

No.

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.

No.

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.

No.

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.

No.

67. During the last ten years, have you unlawfully used controlled substances, narcotic drugs, or dangerous drugs as defined by Federal <u>or</u> 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 <u>or</u> State law provisions.)

No.

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

No.

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.

No.

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

No.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

For more than twenty years, I have had the opportunity to work closely with circuit and county court judges as a Trial Court Staff Attorney. In that role, judges have relied on my legal analysis and recommendations in resolving matters before them. My work requires me to objectively consider the arguments of all parties, review the record, research and analyze the applicable law, and prepare recommendations and proposed rulings to assist the court in reaching the correct legal result.

As a Trial Court Staff Attorney, I have also had extensive exposure to courtroom proceedings. I have observed trials, evidentiary hearings, motion hearings, and other proceedings and have reviewed transcripts, pleadings, motions, exhibits, and other parts of the record in addressing the legal issues that arise from those proceedings. Working closely with the judges for more than twenty years has also allowed me to observe different approaches to decision-making, courtroom and docket management, and communicating with attorneys and litigants. Over the years, I have seen the importance of being prepared, listening carefully, making timely decisions, and treating everyone who comes before the court fairly and respectfully.

My experience as a General Magistrate gave me the opportunity to put what I learned into practice. As General Magistrate, I managed a civil foreclosure docket created to address the backlog resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. I established procedures for the docket, presided over hearings, ruled on evidentiary issues, managed proceedings involving attorneys and self-represented litigants, and prepared reports and recommendations for judicial review. That experience gave me firsthand responsibility for managing a docket and taught me how to move cases efficiently while still ensuring that each party had an opportunity to be heard.

In 2022, in connection with my service as a General Magistrate, I completed both phases of the Florida Judicial College. The program provided training directed to new judges and magistrates, including substantive and procedural law, evidence, ethics, contempt, judicial writing, case management, and trial skills. I also attended the Magistrate and Hearing Officer Institute in March 2023, which included additional training in best practices, domestic violence, and evidence. Throughout my years as a Trial Court Staff Attorney, I have also attended several Florida Trial Court Staff Attorney Association

conferences, which provided continuing education on developments in the law and other issues relevant to the work of the trial courts.

My years as a Trial Court Staff Attorney, along with my experience presiding over proceedings as a General Magistrate, have given me the opportunity to see the work of the court from different perspectives. Combined with the judicial education I have received, those experiences have prepared me well to serve in judicial office.

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.

Brevard County has been my home since 1979, and public service has been the focus of my legal career. I have spent more than twenty years serving the judiciary in this community, and I would be honored to continue serving the people of Brevard County in a greater capacity as a county court judge.

My service to this community has not been limited to my work as a Trial Court Staff Attorney. As an adjunct instructor at Brevard Community College (now Eastern Florida State College), I taught criminology and legal studies. Teaching required me to explain legal concepts clearly to students with different backgrounds and levels of understanding. I believe that experience would help me communicate clearly from the bench and explain the court's rulings and the reasons for them in a way that people appearing before me can understand.

For more than twenty years, I have worked within the Brevard County courts and have become very familiar with our court systems, procedures, technology, and case-management software. I have also developed strong professional working relationships with judges, judicial assistants, clerks, court deputies, and other court personnel. I understand their different roles and how they work together to keep the courts functioning. If appointed, I would bring that knowledge, experience, and understanding of the Brevard County court system to the bench from day one.

I would also bring a straightforward approach to the law. I believe a judge's responsibility is to follow and apply the law as written. When the language is clear, a judge should not read into it something that is not there just to reach a different result. Personal views about what the law should be must not affect the outcome. A judge must apply the law as written to the facts, even when it leads to a difficult or unpopular result. I have taken this approach throughout my years as a Trial Court Staff Attorney, and if appointed, I would continue to apply this same approach to the cases that come before me as a county court judge.

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.

Honorable Benjamin Garagozlo
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940
[redacted]
benjamin.garagozlo@flcourts18.org

Honorable David Koenig
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940
[redacted]
david.koenig@flcourts18.org

Honorable Michelle Naberhaus
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940
[redacted]
michelle.naberhaus@flcourts18.org

Honorable Kathryn Speicher
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940
[redacted]
kathryn.speicher@flcourts18.org

Honorable Scott Blaue
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940
[redacted]
scott.blaue@flcourts18.org

Julie Weal
Senior Trial Court Staff Attorney
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940
(321) 223-7977
julie.weal@flcourts18.org

Rebecca Alpizar
Executive Director, Brevard County Bar Association
5430 Village Drive, Suite 101
Rockledge, Florida 32955
(321) 698-0996
bcba@brevardbar.org

Sara Flenniken
Secretary, Brevard County Bar Association
Office of the State Attorney
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940
[redacted]
sflenniken@sa18.org

Jeanine Allen
President, Vassar B. Carlton American Inn of Court
2205 Pluckebaum Road
Cocoa, Florida 32926
(321) 863-5664
jeanineallenesq@gmail.com

Tiffany Jones
Board Member, Vassar B. Carlton American Inn of Court
8602 Strom Park Drive
Melbourne, Florida 32940
(334) 444-4566
tiffany@suaspontelaw.com

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 15 day of September, 2026.

Suzanne Bentley

Printed Name

Signature

State of Florida
County of Brevard

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of

☑physical presence OR ☐online notarization

this 15th day of September, 2026.

By Suzanne Bentley

☑Personally known ____

☐Produced ID____

Type of Identification _____

Lisa Baumhover

Signature Notary Public

Lisa Baumhover

LISA BAUMHOVER
MY COMMISSION #HH596876
EXPIRES: OCT 06, 2028
Bonded through 1st State Insurance

Printed name of Notary Public

(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: 2026 YTD $55,736.40

   Last Three Years: 2025 - $82,784.94; 2024 - $80,371.58; 2023 - $77,494.30

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: 2026 YTD $55,736.40

   Last Three Years: 2025 - $82,784.94; 2024 - $80,371.58; 2023 - $77,494.30

3. State the gross amount of income or loses 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: 2026 YTD $2,004.38 (savings account interest)

   Last Three Years: 2025 - $2,323.28; 2024 - $2,644.05; 2023 - $91.21; (savings account interest)

4. State the amount 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: 2026 YTD $2,004.38 (savings account interest)

   Last Three Years: 2025 - $2,323.28; 2024 - $2,644.05; 2023 - $91.21; (savings account interest)

5. 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: 2026 YTD $2,004.38 (savings account interest)

   Last Three Years: 2025 - $2,323.28; 2024 - $2,644.05; 2023 - $91.21; (savings account interest)

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 Dec. 31, 2025 was $244,305.80.

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 $ 47,000.00

ASSETS INDIVIDUALLY VALUED AT OVER $1,000:

DESCRIPTION OF ASSET (specific description is required – see instructions p. 3)	VALUE OF ASSET
3930 Play Del Sol Drive, Unit 104, Rockledge, FL 32955	$256,190
Checking Account (Bank of America)	$11,124.55
Savings Account (Bank of America)	$28,529.50
Savings Account (Wells Fargo)	$84,010.88
State of Florida Deferred Compensation Plan	$46,579.82
Florida Retirement System Pension Plan – lump sum valuation not available	

PART C - LIABILITIES

LIABILITIES IN EXCESS OF $1,000 (See instructions on page 4): NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR	AMOUNT OF LIABILITY
PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, 3043 Townsgate Road, Suite 200, Westlake Village, CA 91361	$226.327.65

JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITIES NOT REPORTED ABOVE: NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR	AMOUNT OF LIABILITY

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
State of Florida	200 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399	$73,920.52
Wells Fargo Bank, NA	P.O. Box 5192, Sioux Falls, SD 57117	$2,323.28

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 BUSINESS' 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 ENTTITY			
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.

Suzanne Bentley

SIGNATURE

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Brevard

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 15th day of September, 20 26 by Suzanne Bentley

Lisa Baumhover

(Signature of Notary Public—State of Florida)

Lisa Baumhover

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

Personally Known ✓ *OR* Produced Identification _____

Type of Identification Produced _____

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA
LISA BAUMHOVER
MY COMMISSION #HH596876
EXPIRES: OCT 06, 2028
Bonded through 1st State Insurance

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.

Suzanne Bentley
Printed Name of Applicant

Suzy Bentley
Signature of Applicant

Date: 9/15/26