

APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT

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

Full Name: Brian Russell DeSanto

Social Security No.: [REDACTED]

Florida Bar No.: 0136239

Date Admitted to Practice in Florida: 4/13/1998

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

**General Magistrate, Dependency, Truancy, Probate, and Mental Health Divisions,
Seminole County. 190 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773. (407) 665-5462.**

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.

[REDACTED] **I have lived in Florida for 38 years and have
been at this address for 21 years.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. State your birthdate and place of birth.

August 4, 1972 in Port Jefferson, NY

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 Association on April 13, 1998. I have never been
suspended or otherwise disciplined and my membership has never lapsed**

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

I have no aliases.

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).
 - **University of Florida College of Law, January 1995 – December 1997. Juris Doctor awarded on December 20, 1997. My GPA was 2.89 and my class standing was at or around the 50th percentile.**
 - **University of Florida, August 1990 – April 1994. Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology awarded on April 30, 1994. My GPA was 3.38.**
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.

Charter Member and co-founder of Florida Law Toastmasters, 1996. Treasurer, 1996-97.

EMPLOYMENT:

9. List in reverse chronological order all full-time jobs or employment (including internships and clerkships) you have held since the age of 21. Include the name and address of the employer, job title(s) and dates of employment. For non-legal employment, please briefly describe the position and provide a business address and telephone number.
 - **General Magistrate, February 2023 – present. 190 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773.**
 - **Judicial Staff Attorney, Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. July 2000 – January 2023. 101 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773.**
 - **Assistant State Attorney, State Attorney's Office, Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. January 1998 – June 2000. 101 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773.**
 - **Certified Legal Intern, State Attorney's Office, Eighth Judicial Circuit. August 1997 – December 1997.**
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.

My current role is as a quasi-judicial officer, so I do not represent private clients. Previously, I was a trial court staff attorney, so I worked for the circuit judges in Seminole County, who would consult with me to assist them with legal issues pertaining to their recent cases. I would then draft orders memorializing their rulings for their review and issuance.

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	<u>0</u> %		Civil <u>10</u> %
Federal Trial	<u>0</u> %		Criminal <u>30</u> %
Federal Other	<u>0</u> %		Family <u>0</u> %
State Appellate	<u>0</u> %		Probate <u>10</u> %
State Trial	<u>100</u> %	%	Other <u>50</u> %
State Administrative	<u>0</u> %		
State Other	<u>0</u> %		
TOTAL	<u>100</u> %		TOTAL <u>100</u> %

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

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

Jury?	<u>0</u>	Non-jury?	<u>31</u>
Arbitration?	<u>0</u>	Administrative Bodies?	<u>0</u>
Appellate?	<u>0</u>		

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.

N/A

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.

I have never been reprimanded, sanctioned, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended, or terminated by an employer

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

I have not 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.

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.*

Unfortunately, as I have not been a trial attorney for the last 26 years, I cannot state with any accuracy the last six cases that I tried. According to my records from my 2005 judicial application, I tried 31 non-jury cases to verdict, but I no longer have the specific records of those trials. When I was on the trial docket, the assigned assistant public defender was Kurt Barch, who is now deceased. As I was in the juvenile division, virtually every child I prosecuted was represented by the public defender's office.

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

I do not have any cases that I settled in or out of mediation.

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 preside over hearings every week from Monday – Thursday, so I preside over approximately 16-20 dockets per month.

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

N/A

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?

N/A

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.

- ***In the Interest of K.M.*, 98-1157-CJA, 98-0464-CJA; unreported; represented the STATE OF FLORIDA; Circuit Court, 18th Circuit; Honorable Debra S. Nelson; heard between March 2000 and May 2000; opposing counsel was Mark O'Mara, Esquire; co-counsel for the State of Florida was Lynda M. Crager, Esquire.**

This case was significant because the juvenile at issue was given a lenient probationary sentence by the trial court because of a misreading of the plea agreement. The child had committed numerous sexual offenses but was only prosecuted for committing four. Upon completion of this motion for rehearing, after several days of testimony and argument, the child was committed to a high-risk, secure juvenile facility. Later, instead being released at the end of his commitment, he was subjected to civil commitment pursuant to the Jimmy Ryce Act, which at the time, was a new option. As a prosecutor, I was able to protect the community from this dangerous sexual predator by ensuring that he remained in State custody for several years instead of being released into society.

- ***In the Interest of L.J.*, case no. 98-0371-CJA; unreported; represented the STATE OF FLORIDA; Circuit Court, 18th Circuit; Honorable Newman D. Brock; tried on September 16, 1998; opposing counsel was Jerome Major, Esquire.**

This case was significant because it was a very serious lewd and lascivious case of non-consensual sex between two juveniles. I was the lead trial attorney. During the pre-trial interviews and depositions, I was able to build a rapport with the young, female victim of the crime. This rapport gave her the confidence to face the perpetrator in open court and give very sensitive testimony about the traumatic incident. Based upon this emotional testimony, the defendant was found guilty of committing the crime.

- ***In the Interest of J.W.*, case no. 97-2882-CJA; unreported; represented the STATE OF FLORIDA; Circuit Court, 18th Circuit; Honorable Newman D. Brock; heard on March 25, 1999; opposing counsel was Kurt L. Barch, Assistant Public Defender.**

This case was significant for reasons similar to those stated in *State v. L.J.*, above. This case involved a violation of probation where the Defendant was already on community control (juvenile probation) for a sexual offense. He then was accused of another sexual assault in Volusia County, but the case was not pursued. At the behest of his community control officer and the juvenile victim, our office decided to proceed with a violation of community control in Seminole County based solely upon the accusations arising from Volusia County. This Defendant ultimately ended up admitting his violation after extensive depositions were taken and it became apparent that the victim would participate in the case. This Defendant

was committed to a high-risk, secure commitment program. This case was significant because of the positive impact that it had on the young victim. I encountered her a year after the plea and she thanked me for believing in her and standing up and fighting for her rights.

- **In the Interest of C.M.**, case no. 97-3224-CJA; unreported; represented the STATE OF FLORIDA; Circuit Court, 18th Circuit; Honorable Newman D. Brock; tried on April 16, 1999; opposing counsel was Kurt L. Barch, Assistant Public Defender.

This was an interesting case with a twist. It was one of the first cases that I was assigned to after joining the State Attorney's Office. The Defendant was charged with criminal mischief for throwing a rock at a moving vehicle. The twist was that the Defendant had an identical twin brother. During the trial, the twin testified that he had thrown the rock, but there was other evidence and statements that indicated that it was the Defendant who was guilty. The Court ruled in the State's favor and found the Defendant to have been guilty of throwing the rock. While there was a significant twist regarding the guilt of the Defendant, I was able to establish that the twin was not credible and that the Defendant should be found guilty.

- **In the Interest of S.G.**, case no. 98-3140-CJA; unreported; represented the STATE OF FLORIDA; Circuit Court, 18th Circuit; Honorable Newman D. Brock; tried on April 16, 1999; opposing counsel was Robert B. Fisher.

This case involved a melee between several teenage girls. The Defendant was ultimately found guilty of simple battery. However, an interesting issue arose during this case regarding the confidentiality of juvenile records. Counsel for the Defendant filed a Motion to Compel in which he asked the State to provide the criminal histories of the other juveniles who were involved in the fight. The State objected based upon the Fla. Stat. §985.05, which states that juvenile records are confidential and not admissible in any civil or criminal proceeding. The court ruled that the State was not required to provide these records. This case was significant because it was a case of first impression, as no Florida appellate court had previously addressed this issue.

Attorneys Kurt Barch and Jerome Major are deceased.

Mark O'Mara – 220 North Roasland Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801; (407) 898-5151;
mark@omaralawgroup.com

Robert Fisher – 1220 Commerce Park Avenue, Longwood, FL 32779; (407) 389-4529;
robertfisherlaw@gmail.com

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've attached 3 writing samples. Two are from my time as a staff attorney. I drafted those after consultation with the presiding judges and they may have made some minor edits, but

the end product would have been 99% my work. The other is a report that I drafted while a general magistrate. The entire document is my work.

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.**

N/A

- 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.**

September 2005 – I applied for a County Court position. My name was not forwarded to the Governor's Office for consideration.

- 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 have been employed as a General Magistrate in Seminole County since February 2023. I am assigned to the Dependency division, so I hear dependency arraignments, judicial reviews, annual reviews, and miscellaneous dependency matters. In addition, I preside over truancy cases prosecuted by the Superintendent of Seminole County Schools. I also conduct Baker Act hearings at South Seminole Hospital and Aspire Health Partners. Finally, I hear guardianship cases where the court is compelling court-appointed guardians to comply with their statutory requirements when they miss lawful deadlines.

- 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;
(ii) the approximate number and nature of the cases you handled during your tenure;
(iii) the citations of any published opinions; and
(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.

- (i) **Karen Mazzola – Office of Regional Counsel; 101 Sunnyside Road, Suite 310, Casselberry, FL 32707; (407) 389-5140**
John Stone – Office of the Public Defender; 4807 Brown Road, Christmas, FL 32709; (407) 484-0721
Samantha Gordon – Department of Children and Families; 400 Lexington Green Lane, Sanford, FL 32771; (407) 328-5656
Kalae Menard – Assistant General Counsel for the Superintendent of Seminole County Schools; 400 East Lake Mary Boulevard, Sanford, FL 32773; (407) 320-0000

David Whateley – Assistant State Attorney; 101 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773; (407) 665-6000

James Jupena– Registry Counsel; 283 Cranes Root Boulevard, Suite 111, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701; (407) 339-0068

- (ii) Each month for the last 3.5 years, I have conducted approximately 40 dependency hearings in open dependency cases (arraignments, judicial reviews, status hearings), 40 annual review hearings in dependency cases that have closed to permanent guardianship, 40 truancy hearings, 15 Baker Act hearings, and 20 Guardianship Review Hearings in probate cases.**

- (iii) None of my reports have been appealed or published**

(iv)

- *In the Interest of L.B.*, case no. 19-DP-60; unreported; heard on November 12, 2024; the Father’s attorney was Richard Weisberg**

This was the most hotly contested case that I’ve heard since becoming a magistrate. The Child had been placed in a permanent guardianship, and due to an abuse report, the Father’s visitation was restricted. Over several hearings, he denied committing any acts of abuse and sought to restore his visitation. The Court held evidentiary hearings over several days, taking testimony from several witnesses. Ultimately, I determined that neither the Father nor Guardian were acting in the Child’s best interests. Since taking action, they are in a better place than they were, although there is still substantial animosity between them.

- *In the Interest of S.L.*, case no. 23-DP-47; unreported; last heard on November 13, 2025; the attorney for the Superintendent was Kalae Menard**

This was a truancy case where there two Children who were not attending school – one was in elementary school and the other in middle school. Over the time the case was pending, the children turned their lives around. They attended school every day and thrived. In fact, when the case closed successfully, I learned that the older child had set a career goal of becoming a social worker because she was so moved by the compassion she felt in school and my courtroom and the Mother passed along how grateful the Child was for our intervention.

- *In the Interest of K.S.*, case no. 22-DP-51; unreported; last heard on February 29, 2024; the attorney for the Superintendent was Stephanie Stewart**

This was another truancy case. It had carried over from the prior magistrate. The Child was in high school but was not making any progress because of her poor attendance and behavioral issues. Each time she came into Court, we would set achievable goals and try to remove barriers to her education. I’m proud to say that she changed schools to one that suited her needs and she ended up graduating with her high school diploma.

- *In the Interest of A.G.*, case no. 15-DP-123; unreported; heard on July 15, 2026; the parties appeared *pro se***

This case is a dependency case that has closed to permanent guardianship where the Child has been placed with her grandmother. When these cases close, our Courts do a unique process in conjunction with DCF where we hold hearings every year to make sure that the guardians, who step into stressful situations, continue to be supported. During these

hearings, the Court talks directly with the children and then with the Guardians. In this particular case, the Child was so comfortable after our hearing the previous year that she baked brownies for me and my staff to share at this year's hearing. It is an example of the connections and impressions that I can make in the courtroom with children, who are often intimidated by the setting.

- *In the Interest of X.D.*, case no. 17-DP-143; unreported; heard on October 17, 2023; the parties appeared *pro se*

This case involved Child who had run away from his Guardians' house and was temporarily staying in an unapproved placement with a local pastor. After setting an emergency hearing where the guardians, Child, and pastor appeared, I was able to reconcile the Child and Guardians. The Child returned to their house, and when I last saw them in February, I learned that the Child is thriving. He is preparing to graduate high school this year with an eye towards the military or Embry-Riddle University. I was very rewarding to protect a Child from his poor decisions and see it work out over the next several years.

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.

As a General Magistrate, I am not aware of any recommendations that I have made which have been reversed by a reviewing court. All of my reports and recommendations are reviewed by the presiding dependency judge, currently John Galluzzo and William Orth. As a staff attorney, hundreds of the orders I drafted were appealed as a matter of right. While some were likely reversed over 23 years, they would constitute a very small number of cases. It would be impossible for me to list all the orders that I drafted that have been appealed.

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.

As a staff attorney, hundreds of the orders I drafted were appealed as a matter of right. While some were likely reversed over 23 years, they would constitute a very small number of cases. It would be impossible for me to list all the orders that I drafted that were appealed.

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.

N/A

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, I have not held any party in contempt. As a magistrate, I cannot hold any person in direct or indirect criminal contempt and I have never been asked to hold a person in civil contempt.

31. Have you ever held or been a candidate for any other public office? If so, state the office, location, dates of service or candidacy, and any election results.
No, I have not been a candidate for any public office.

NON-LEGAL BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT

32. If you are now an officer, director, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise, state the name of such enterprise, the nature of the business, the nature of your duties, and whether you intend to resign such position immediately upon your appointment or election to judicial office.
I am not an officer, director, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise.

33. Since being admitted to the Bar, have you ever engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law? If so, explain and provide dates. If you received any compensation of any kind outside the practice of law during this time, please list the amount of compensation received.
I have not engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law since my admission to the Florida Bar.

POSSIBLE BIAS OR PREJUDICE

34. The Commission is interested in knowing if there are certain types of cases, groups of entities, or extended relationships or associations which would limit the cases for which you could sit as the presiding judge. Please list all types or classifications of cases or litigants for which you, as a general proposition, believe it would be difficult for you to sit as the presiding judge. Indicate the reason for each situation as to why you believe you might be in conflict. If you have prior judicial experience, describe the types of cases from which you have recused yourself.
I do not believe that I have any reason to hear any type of case. I have never been asked to recuse myself from consideration of any cases, although there have been times that parties have objected to the referral of case to the General Magistrate, but none of those were due to who I am; they were general objections to the referrals.

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

State Attorney's Office Employee of the Month, June 1999

State Attorney's Office Pride in Excellence Award for Attorney of the Year, 1999.

Honors, University of Florida College of Law - Spring 1997, Fall 1997.

Dean's List, University of Florida - Fall 1990, Fall 1991, Fall 1992, Spring 1993

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

N/A

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.

Seminole County Bar Association. 2000 -- 2003. Director, February 2002 -- December 2003.

Florida Trial Court Staff Attorney Association 2000 -- 2023

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.

N/A

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, I have never been a member of an organization that restricts its membership based on race, religion, national origin, or sex.

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

As a governmental attorney for my entire career, I have not been permitted to provide pro bono representation to private clients.

45. Please describe any hobbies or other vocational interests.

I play soccer 2-3 times per week and am an avid Orlando City Soccer fan

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

I have not served in the military.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/bdesanto>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

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

I have been married to Allison Elizabeth DeSanto since May 17, 1998. She is a Security Risk Manager with Alight Solutions.

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.

- Matthew DeSanto, 24. He is a Player Care Coordinator with the [REDACTED] in Orlando. He lives at [REDACTED] and his telephone number is [REDACTED]

- Andrew DeSanto, 21. He is a student at the University of Florida. He lives at [REDACTED] and his telephone number is [REDACTED]

CRIMINAL AND MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS

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

I have never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor.

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

I have never pled guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or misdemeanor.

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

I have never been arrested.

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.

I have twice been a named plaintiff in small claims court in Seminole County.

- *DeSanto v. Leesburg Kia Automotive Management*, 25-SC-4584. Case was voluntarily dismissed.
- *DeSanto v. Maronda Homes, Inc.*, 00-SC-0615. Case was voluntarily dismissed.

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?

There has never been a malpractice complaint filed against me.

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.

There has never been a malpractice claim settled against me.

56. Has there ever been a finding of probable cause or other citation issued against you or are you presently under investigation for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court,

administrative agency, bar association, or other professional group. If so, provide the particulars of each finding or investigation.

There has never been a finding of probable cause or other citation issued against you and I am not presently under investigation for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, or other professional group

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.

To my knowledge, none of my current or former co-workers, subordinates, supervisors, customers, clients, or the like, have 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 me with any regulatory or investigatory agency or with my employer

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.

I am not currently the subject of an investigation which could result in civil, administrative, or criminal action against me

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

I have never filed a personal petition in bankruptcy and no petition for bankruptcy has been filed against me.

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

I have never been threatened with eviction.

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 filed tax returns every year that I was required to do so and I have never paid a tax penalty or had a tax lien filed against me.

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, I have never been hospitalized, consulted a professional, received treatment or a diagnosis from a professional for any mental health condition.

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, I have not experienced any of the conditions described.

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

I do not have any physical or mental impairment that would limit my ability to perform my judicial duties.

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

I have never been declared legally incompetent nor been placed in a guardianship, conservatorship, or committee.

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

No, I have never unlawfully used any controlled substance.

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, I have never been sanctioned in any way by an employer due to suspected alcohol or drug use.

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, I have never refused a drug or alcohol test.

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

No, I have never suffered memory loss or impaired judgment for any reason.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

I am applying for this position from a unique vantage. I currently am assigned as a magistrate in the Juvenile Division where the newly appointed Judge will be assigned, hearing the cases which I already have familiarity. I am experienced in presiding over court proceedings and have substantial experience in working in a judicial capacity. I have attended both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Florida Judicial College, which is designed for attorneys engaging in judicial or quasi-judicial roles. As a 28-year member of the Florida Bar, I have also attended numerous CLE courses on a variety of topics. As many of those courses were offered through the staff attorney association, we learned about issues that came before the judiciary and we were specifically trained to think about those issues through a judicial lens.

The overwhelming majority of my legal career has been spent supporting the judiciary in every division. As a staff attorney, my primary role was to assist the judges in dealing with complex legal cases. Because I was not an advocate, I had to objectively review the evidence presented by both sides and discover the relevant case law before providing a draft order setting forth the proper legal ruling. The judges valued my opinions and writings.

Since becoming a General Magistrate, my role has changed but in many ways it is just an expansion of my prior experience as a staff attorney. I still review cases and ultimately provide recommendations about how cases should be addressed. The difference, of course, is that I am now the person holding court and deciding what evidence is admissible and am

making my decisions independently instead of doing so after consulting with the presiding judges.

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

I have been working under the guidance of the Judicial Code for almost my entire legal career. Many attorneys who transition to the judiciary from private practice must retrain themselves to eliminate their biases developed during their legal careers. I have already learned to view legal issues in a judicial capacity, both as a staff attorney and more recently as a General Magistrate.

In addition to my legal qualifications, I have extensive ties to the Seminole County area. My wife and I both attended Lake Brantley High School in Altamonte Springs until we graduated in 1990. After attending undergraduate and law school in Gainesville, we returned to Seminole County. We lived in Longwood for four years, then purchased a house in Lake Mary, where we lived for three years. In 2005, we moved to Sanford, where we have lived ever since. Our sons both live with us in Sanford while they establish themselves.

Our ties to the community have enabled us to create an extensive support system consisting of family and friends. My mother lives in Longwood and has been a resident of Seminole County since 1988. My older brother is the Department Chair of the Science Department at Lake Mary High School, where he teaches honors, gifted, and advanced placement physics, and my younger brother lives with his family and works in Orlando. My wife's parents recently moved from Apopka to Sanford. Finally, one does not live in an area for this length of time without developing friendships with numerous people. Based upon these extensive ties, I am very familiar with the different geographical areas and the issues facing the residents of Seminole County.

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.

John Galluzzo – 190 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773; [REDACTED]

**Melissa Souto – 101 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773; (407) 665-4926;
melissa.souto@flcourts18.org**

**Marlene Alva – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@m**

**Kenneth Lester, Jr. – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]**

Donna McIntosh – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

**Allison Brandt – 1007 Wheeler Street, Plant City, FL 33563; (813) 474-9323;
Allison@brandtlawpa.com**

**Sarah Mabery – 3495 Arbutus Lane, Winter Park, FL 32792; (407) 806-1950;
Maberys@circuit8.org**

**Debbie Whitehead – 470 High Tide Lane, Daytona Beach, FL 32124; (407) 462-3379;
Debbiew4987@gmail.com**

**Vincent Calderon – 100 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773; (407) 319-7198;
VCalderon@seminolesheriff.org**

**Gregg Vernikos – 676 Oswego Court, Winter Springs, FL 32708; (407) 257-5124;
gfv1313@yahoo.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 17th day of September, 2026.

Brian DeSanto

Printed Name

[Signature]

Signature

State of Florida

County of Seminole

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

☒ physical presence OR ☐ online notarization

this 17 day of September, 2026,

By Brian DeSanto [Signature]

☒ Personally known ✓

☐ Produced ID _____

Type of Identification _____

Debra R Whitehead

Signature Notary Public



Debra R Whitehead

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: \$73,871

Last Three Years: \$94,609 \$87,353 \$74,277

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: \$57,372

Last Three Years: \$74,962 \$72,270 \$76,952

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: \$1,015

Last Three Years: \$1,124 \$697 \$897

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: \$0

Last Three Years: \$0 \$0 \$0

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: \$1,015

Last Three Years: \$1,124 \$697 \$897

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 September 17, 2026 was
\$600,000.

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 \$ 120,000

ASSETS INDIVIDUALLY VALUED AT OVER \$1,000:

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

VALUE OF ASSET

4968 Rock Rose Loop, Sanford, FL 32771	\$540,000
AON Stock	\$82,877
ALIT Stock	\$2,356
MSFT Stock	\$49,988
S&P Index Fund	\$13,500
Cash (Savings)	\$20,000

PART C - LIABILITIES

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

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR

AMOUNT OF LIABILITY

Roundpoint Mortgage, P.O. Box 985, Mount Airy, NC 27030	\$198,000
Kia Finance America, P.O. Box 660891, Dallas, TX 75266	\$25,000

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
Seminole County BOCC	91 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773	\$111,000 / year

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 ENTITY			
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.



SIGNATURE

STATE OF FLORIDA**COUNTY OF****SEMINOLE**

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 17th day of September, 2026 by Brian DeSanto

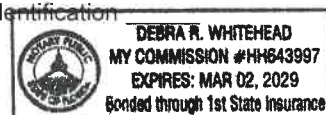
(Signature of Notary Public—State of Florida)



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

Personally Known ☒ OR Produced Identification

Type of Identification Produced _____



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: 9/17/26

JNC Submitting To: Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

Name (please print): Brian DeSanto

Current Occupation: General Magistrate

Telephone Number: 401-665-5462

Attorney No.: 0136239

Gender (check one): ☒ Male ☐ Female

Ethnic Origin (check one): ☒ White, non-Hispanic

☐ Hispanic

☐ Black

☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native

☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

County of Residence: Summit

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.

Brian DeSanto
Printed Name of Applicant


Signature of Applicant

Date: September 17, 2026