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Summer 2022

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## Meet the **BOARD**





#### SUMMER 2022

CABA Briefs is published by the Cuban American Bar Association, Inc. ("CABA").

CABA is a non-profit voluntary bar association founded in 1974 by lawyers of Cuban descent. CABA's members include judges, lawyers, and law students of all backgrounds interested in issues affecting the Cuban community, as well as broader legal and human rights issues impacting minority communities as a whole. CA-BA's mission is to promote equality of our members; increase diversity in the judiciary and legal community; serve the public interest by increasing awareness to the study of jurisprudence; foster respect for the law; preserve high standards of integrity, honor, and professional courtesy among our peers; provide equal access to and adequate representation of all minorities before the courts; facilitate the administration of justice; build close relationships among our members; provide mentoring and scholarship to law students nationally; and support the indigent community through the funding and administration of an effective pro bono legal assistance project and other community programs.

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To submit an article or ad to CABA Briefs, please contact Emily Balter at ebalter@brzoninglaw.com.



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## President's MESSAGE



It is hard to believe that we are already half-way through 2022 and it brings me great pleasure to know that the 2022 CABA Gala theme—*Volver a Vivir*- continues to be possible and is a reality. I am thrilled to announce that the CABA Gala exceeded my personal fundraising goal and that is thanks to all of you! A special thank you to our sponsors and to all who attended. Thanks to your commitment to CABA, we were able to raise robust amounts for both the CABA Foundation and the CABA Pro Bono Project.

Since the Gala, we have been hard at work. Our monthly lunch-time virtual CLE courses continue to increase in popularity and are incredibly well-attended. The CABA Mentorship Program got off to an excellent start with scores of mentees being paired with mentors and a successful networking event to kick it off. In April, we had a wonderful Membership Happy Hour and have routinely co-sponsored various events with other bar associations. Notably, in May, to commemorate *el 20 de Mayo*,

CABA co-sponsored a distinguished speaker series event, with the San Carlos Institute, at the Sanctuary of the Arts. The program featured the Hon. Emilio Salcines, who provided a riveting speech on Jose Marti with a focus on his often-forgotten connections to our State of Florida.

Staying true to CABA's commitment to mental health in the profession, we hosted "Creating a Meaningful Life" on May 25, to acknowledge Mental Health month and provide our members with various tools to help improve their work-life balance and overall happiness.

Finally, the first half of the year ended with the most successful CABA Marlins Night to date! Thanks to the generosity of the Marlins and all our sponsors, we were able to raise over \$30,000 for the CABA Pro Bono Program.

Meanwhile, the CABA on Cuba Committee has been very busy working on an amended petition which was filed with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in July. The petition was filed on the one-year anniversary of the internationally recognized peaceful demonstrations for freedom and democracy that took place on the island in 2021. The amended petition added additional individuals along with updates on the condition of many of the pending petition's initial Cuban activists, artists, dissidents, and citizens that were arbitrarily detained and/or unjustly imprisoned. CABA remains committed to standing up for human rights and I am personally incredibly proud of this effort.

As I look into the second half of my year as President, I am excited for all the events and opportunities still to come. In August, we hosted a tri-county bar event at the BrightLine station downtown and are excited to have the CABA Judicial Luncheon and Candidate's Forum back in its traditional format. This edition of Briefs spotlights judicial races and provides biographies for each of the judicial candidates up for election on August 23rd. I encourage you to take the time to familiarize yourself with the candidates in this edition and enjoy the luncheon tomorrow.

In September, we look forward to hosting two of CABA's annual and largest events. Over Labor Day weekend, CABA's Getaway will be held at Ocean Reef once more, and this year's program includes more CLE credits than ever before. At the end of the month, I hope you all will join us for *AIT: Uncorked*, also back in its traditional format, but at a zestful new venue. It will be held of September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Wynwood Marketplace. As always, *AIT: Uncorked* benefits CABA's Pro Bono Program which provides essential legal services to those most in need.

In addition to these events, please continue to look at for additional events and networking opportunities. As CABA continues to return to life as we knew it, we are happy to be able to connect with all of our members and offer meaningful opportunities for the exchange of information and networking. The CABA Board and I serve you proudly each day and are grateful for the opportunity to do so.

Best always,

Miriam Soler Ramos CABA 2022 President



## Editor-In-Chief's MESSAGE



#### Dear CABA Members:

It is an honor to present this Special Issue of CABA Briefs. Our goal with this electronic edition is to familiarize our members with South Florida's judicial candidates. We hope that it kindles our current connections with the bench and introduces some new ones. In our various practices of law, it is important to understand the personalities of our judiciary and find common ground. As one of the pillars of democracy, these local judicial elections deserve the utmost respect and attention.

We would like to thank the judicial candidates from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough counties who participated in this Special Issue. Our members both live and practice across the Florida region and the information provided is enlightening for the upcoming races. This Special Issue includes articles from the Honorable Chief Judge Jack Tuter and Judge Florence Barner on Florida's

First Community Court and from Judge Leifman on the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court's Criminal Mental Health Project. Additionally, consistent with CABA's mission to foster respect for the law and facilitate the administration of justice, this Special Issue summarizes the results of CABA's judicial poll. The judicial poll is designed to educate the electorate about the qualifications of judicial candidates. We believe the poll results are an effective mechanism for our members to express their views on the present and future judiciary, and we hope our members find it informative.

A special thanks to CABA Briefs Committee members Diana Arteaga, Daniel Buigas, and Javier Ley-Soto, Director of Operations Victoria Suess, and Assistant Editors Jason Silver and Sammy Epelbaum for their continued commitment to CABA Briefs and this Special Issue. We appreciate the support shown by our members and community who have contributed to this edition and look forward to working with you on our next edition.

Sincerely,

Emby Koy Balter

Emily K. Balter Editor-in-Chief

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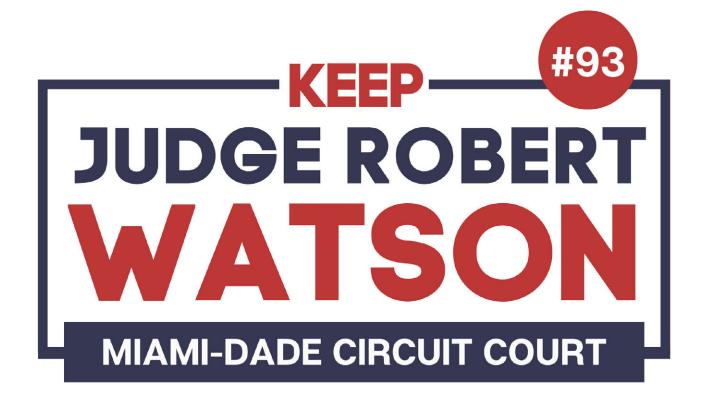
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#### MARCUS BACH ARMAS



Tell us about your view of the Cuban American Bar Association's involvement and impact in the community.

Since the days of Osvaldo Soto, CABA has always stood tall in the face of oppression, both foreign and domestic. Although many families—like mine—were fortunate enough to escape the oppression of Castro's Cuba, let us not forget that others remain oppressed to this day. They are currently enduring what our families once suffered. They, too, are seeking a more just and peaceful life. Stand tall for them. Stand tall for the Constitution. Stand tall for democracy.

## What is your No. 1 survival tip when a crisis or major challenge arises in litigation and/or life and/or situation?

Do not be scared of change and do not shy away from challenges; oftentimes, the "obstacle is the way."

#### What is your biggest achievement in your career thus far?

Bringing the Miami Dolphins back to Miami (from Broward).

#### Bio:

Marcus Bach Armas has served as Senior Director of Legal & Government Affairs for the Miami Dolphins, Hard Rock Stadium, and the Formula 1 Miami Grand Prix since 2010; he will resign from his current role, effective June 30, 2022, and transition into public service. He joined the organization in August 2010 and was a key advisor to the organization on a number of transformative projects, including the renovation of Hard Rock Stadium, the construction of the Miami Open tennis campus, the relocation of the Miami Dolphins practice facility to Miami-Dade County, Super Bowl LIV, and the Formula 1 Miami Grand Prix. Being elected to public office fulfills a long-term goal to serve his hometown while also contributing to the legal system that anchors our constitutional form of government. Marcus currently lives in Miami with his wife, Lara, who is also an attorney and serves as Senior Vice President of Litigation for TelevisaUnivision.

#### JUDGE CHRISTINA MARIE DIRAIMONDO



## What is your biggest achievement in your career thus far?

Since I was a young girl it has been my dream to become a judge. I always knew I wanted a long career in public service. I went to the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office to learn how to become an experienced trial attorney. I was in court every day, and I learned how to be comfortable in the courtroom. It was an incredible journey and privilege to try all different types of cases in a variety of specialized units to hone my craft.

I started in the county court trying misdemeanors, and then was promoted to the circuit court where I began with third degree felonies and worked my way up to first degree felonies before being promoted to Division Chief where I specialized in homicides. After 3 years as a division chief, I

felt ready to apply to the Judicial Nominating Commission for a county court position. Of the many jobs in public service and government, a judge is someone who almost every person will come into contact with at some point; whether as a party, a juror, or a witness. Judges make decisions that are so important to the lives of the parties who appear before them. Having appeared before so many wonderful great jurists, I decided that being a judge was one of the best ways for me to serve the public and make their contact with the court system a positive experience. I was appointed to the County Court bench in 2018 and I served in the Civil Division where I presided over thousands of cases. In December of 2019, I was elevated to the Circuit Court. I sat in the Criminal Division for over a year and now I sit in the Family Division. Being able to serve my community for the last four years has been such an honor and I look forward to continuing my service for many years to come.

#### Bio:

Judge Christina Marie DiRaimondo was born and raised in Miami-Dade County where she grew up with her parents and younger sister. As a young girl, she attended Saint Patrick's Catholic School on Miami Beach, and later attended Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School in the heart of the City of Miami.

Judge DiRaimondo earned her Bachelor of Arts with honors from Iona College, and later attended law school at Nova Southeastern University where she held the position of Senior Editor of the Law Review Journal and graduated at the top of her class.

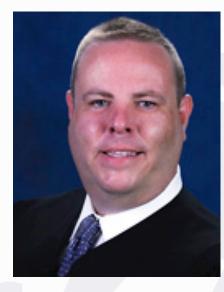
Before her judicial appointment, Judge DiRaimondo was an Assistant State Attorney with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office serving as Felony Division Chief, specializing in homicide cases. Over the course of her 10-year career with the State Attorney's Office, she supervised many of young attorneys, provided insight on thousands of cases and tried more than 80 of them to verdict in both county and circuit court.

Former Governor Rick Scott appointed Judge DiRaimondo to the County Court bench in 2018 and she served in the Civil Division where she presided over thousands of cases. In December of 2019, Governor DeSantis elevated Judge DiRaimondo to the Circuit Court. She presided in the Criminal Division for over a year and now sits in the Family Division of the Circuit Court.

During her career, Judge DiRaimondo has been a member of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Cuban American Bar Association, Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association, National Association of Women Lawyers, and the Miami-Dade County Bar Association. Additionally, Judge DiRaimondo is actively involved in her community and is a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami where she mentors youth in the community. She is also a long-standing member of the Heidi Hewes Chapter of the Woman's Cancer Association.

In her free time, Judge DiRaimondo enjoys spending time with her family.

### JUDGE MICHAEL C. BAGGÉ-HERNÁNDEZ



## From your perspective, what is biggest lasting impact COVID-19 has had on the legal profession?

I am extremely proud of how our profession came together in response to the challenges that COVID-19 brought us. We, as a state and as a profession, had to make hard decisions to ensure that Floridians' Access to Court rights were impacted as nominally as possible throughout the pandemic. I think we rose to the challenge and succeeded. One of those challenges involved conducting court hearings without physically being in court. Virtual courtrooms became the answer to that problem. As practitioners became used to being at virtual court hearings without the expense of leaving the office, their legal practices also changed, and new habits were formed. Even after restrictions against in-person hearings have been relaxed, courts still continue to receive requests for virtual hearings. To me, that is the lasting impact of COVID-19, the use of the virtual courtroom by litigants.

## What is your No. 1 survival tip when a crisis or major challenge arises in litigation and/or life and/or situation?

Honesty with the opposing counsel and the court is my number one survival tip. Life happens to us all, and sometimes we must face tough challenges that may include emergency situations. When that happens, telling opposing counsel and the Court that you need to deal with an emergency shows candor and maturity. It's hard to imagine a situation where the Court and opposing counsel would not be understanding to an emergency situation after a lawyer has been honest and straightforward.

#### Bio:

Michael C. Baggé-Hernández serves as a County Court Judge in the Hillsborough County Court in Hillsborough County, Florida. He was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2019. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Baggé-Hernández served for 10 years as an Assistant United States Attorney, five (5) years in the District of Puerto Rico and five (5) years in the Middle District of Florida. During his time at the United States Attorney's Office, he prosecuted many different types of cases, including transnational organized crime, crimes committed on the high seas, narcotics crime, crime related to the Immigration and Naturalization Acts, violent crime, white collar crime, fraud, and money laundering, among others. Additionally, Judge Baggé-Hernández litigated civil and criminal asset forfeiture cases on behalf of the United States, and represented the United States in federal appellate court. In 2018, the United States Department of Justice Organized Crime and Gang Section selected Judge Baggé-Hernández for a "first of its kind" detail as a Resident Legal Advisor to the United States Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador. Prior to that, Judge Baggé-Hernández served as an Assistant State Attorney in Hillsborough County, Florida. As a native Spanish speaker, Judge Baggé-Hernández has participated in many trainings given by the US Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT) and the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative, which involved travelling throughout Latin America and training, in Spanish, lawyers, law enforcement, judges, and law students whose countries are changing from the inquisitorial system to accusatorial system. Additionally, he has participated in various lectures, trainings, and talks to judges, law enforcement, law students, and lawyers, on a variety of law-related topics. Judge Baggé-Hernández graduated from the Florida State University in 2003, with a degree in International Affairs and Spanish, and earned his Juris Doctor in 2007 from the Stetson University College of Law.

#### JUDGE THOMAS (TOMÁS) REBULL



## From your perspective, what is biggest lasting impact COVID-19 has had on the legal profession?

Without a doubt the biggest lasting impact COVID-19 has had on the legal profession is the use of remote meeting technology. Regardless of how proficient or comfortable anyone was with the use of remote meeting technology in legal matters or proceedings, everyone has been forced to learn how to use it to conduct business. It has now become a necessary and accepted part of how we do business.

### What is your No. 1 survival tip when a crisis or major challenge arises in litigation and/or life and/or situation?

My number one survival tip would be to try to stay calm, remember that life is long, and this too shall pass.

#### What is your biggest achievement in your career thus far?

I don't think of my career in terms of achievements. Throughout my professional life, my hope has always been that I do the best job I could possibly do. I have always wanted to give the people I serve the best I had to offer. I hope I have done that.

#### Bio:

Tom Rebull was appointed as a Circuit Judge in September of 2011. He was born and raised in Miami.

Boston University awarded him a bachelor's degree in Psychology in 1992. Judge Rebull obtained his law degree, magna cum laude, from American University's Washington College of Law in 1995, where he served on the law review. His first job after law school was as a law clerk for two years for the late Judge Joseph Nesbitt on the Third District Court of Appeal of Florida.

Before his appointment as a Circuit Judge, Judge Rebull was a Partner at the law firm of Broad and Cassel, where he practiced for over 10 years in the areas of commercial, real estate, and employment litigation. During that time, Judge Rebull was active in the community. He served on the City of Miami Civilian Investigative Panel for 9 years, the last two as its Chairperson. The Panel is charged with civilian oversight of the Miami Police Department. He also participated in a two-year fellowship through the Miami Fellows Initiative, a program of the then Dade Community Foundation. The Initiative is a leadership development program for individuals in the early stages of their career.

Judge Rebull's first assignment as a Circuit Judge was in the Felony Criminal Division. When she became Chief Judge in 2013, the Honorable Bertila Soto appointed Judge Rebull as an Associate Administrative Judge for the Criminal Division. She later named him cochair of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee. Judge Rebull rotated from the Criminal Division to the Civil Division in January of 2015. Judge Rebull participated in a case management pilot program in the civil division. He is a frequent lecturer on professionalism and civility issues, as well as matters related to practice in the civil division of the Circuit Court. Judge Rebull has also served as faculty at the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies. Judge Rebull currently serves in the Criminal Division.

#### JUDGE NUSHIN G. SAYFIE



### From your perspective, what is biggest lasting impact COVID-19 has had on the legal profession?

The ability for the entire practice of law to operate remotely. We were almost 100% remote for months. This taught us that there is a place for remote practice in our normal non-pandemic procedures. Giving lawyers and litigants the ability to access justice virtually is a huge game changer in a lot of good ways.

## What is your No. 1 survival tip when a crisis or major challenge arises in litigation and/or life and/or situation?

Assemble your team!! A good one. Like the last scene in Avengers Endgame. I think having a team of people you trust and can delegate responsibility to is crucial.

#### What is your biggest achievement in your career thus far?

Becoming Chief Judge of the 11th judicial circuit is definitely up there. I spent over 8 years as the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Criminal Division and I feel really proud of the work I did there with amazing people that are still part of my team now. Can I pick a 3<sup>rd</sup> one too? As a trial lawyer I won a first degree murder case and it's hard to beat the thrill of a great jury verdict. AND overall—raising 3 kids that are all now college graduates while maintaining a demanding full time career—I know there are many people who do this—but it feels like I climbed Mount Everest or ran a marathon.

#### Bio:

Nushin G. Sayfie was appointed to the Circuit Court by Governor Crist in 2007. She was appointed the Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division in March 2013. She presided over 90 felony jury trials as well as the Felony Mental Health Diversion court and is one of the founders of Miami's first Veterans' Court. On February 4, 2021, Judge Sayfie was elected to be the next Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. She began her term as Miami-Dade's second female chief on July 1, 2021.

Prior to her service on the bench, Judge Sayfie was an Assistant Public Defender in Miami beginning in July 1994. She tried over 75 cases as a lawyer including homicide and death penalty cases and she trained and supervised lawyers in the Felony Division.

#### JUDGE SCOTT M. BERNSTEIN



## From your perspective, what is biggest lasting impact COVID-19 has had on the legal profession?

The biggest lasting impact COVID-19 had on the legal profession is—it forced us into new modes of communication. I doubt I conducted more than three virtual hearing in my first 20 years on the bench. Now, it's every day. While there are good things and bad things about that, some are (I hope) lasting. Motion calendars and other short hearings are MUCH more efficient, and more cost effective for lawyers and parties, with remote hearings. And for self-represented litigants, it has been a marvel. The incidents of no-shows has dropped to almost zero, as parties can appear without having to take a day off work, having to travel to the courthouse, or having to scramble to find child care. I have heard it said that COVID was not the pandemic we wanted, but it was the pandemic we needed. I'm not sure I would go that far, but I understand the sentiment. We needed to move forward with technology, and we have.

## What is your No. 1 survival tip when a crisis or major challenge arises in litigation and/or life and/or situation?

My survival tip for any crisis is to breathe. Research has shown that, when things start to feel out of control, taking control over your breath is a great way to interrupt feelings of being overwhelmed; you can then begin to take action to address the crisis.

#### Bio:

Judge Bernstein received his B.A. from Vanderbilt University in 1981. He received his J.D. from the University of Florida in 1983 (with honors), where he wrote for the Law Review. Judge Bernstein went into private practice upon graduation, concentrating in commercial litigation and appeals. He was elected to the Circuit Court of the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida in 1998.

In 2019, Chief Justice Charles Canady of the Florida Supreme Court awarded Judge Bernstein The Chief Justice Award for Judicial Excellence.

Judge Bernstein is a Past statewide Chair of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges. He served as Chair from 2016-2018, where he created the Judicial Wellness Program to benefit every Judge in the State of Florida; he was Secretary from 2012-21014; he was Chair-elect from 2014-2016. He was Education Chair from 2007 through 2012, where he oversaw continuing judicial education needs of Circuit Judges in the State of Florida. He also serves on the Florida Court Education Council, he is the co-Chair of the Universal Planning Committee, and he teaches the Faculty Training course, a prerequisite before any Florida Judge can teach to other Florida Judges.

Judge Bernstein was Chair of the Florida Supreme Court's Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity from 2007-2016; he continues to serve on that Committee. He was appointed Chair by 6 different Chief Justices of the Florida Supreme Court. This Committee promotes the perceptions of fairness in the court system statewide and has implemented hundreds of diversity trainings for all Judges and many court personnel in the State.

Judge Bernstein was born and raised in Miami. He founded the first volunteer support group for The New World Symphony and established a program providing music lessons to inner-city children. He volunteered his time extensively in many community and social programs.

#### JUDGE ZACHARY JAMES



### Tell us about your view of the Cuban American Bar Association's involvement and impact in the community.

I have been a member of CABA for more than a decade, and I was thrilled to watch my former law partner serve as the organization's President several years ago. CABA is at the forefront of advocating for equal access to justice, promoting service to the community, speaking out on ongoing issues in Cuba, and providing outstanding mentorship and continuing legal education. The organization is also dedicated to pro bono service, a cause that I likewise take very seriously. While I was in private practice, I worked with CABA's Pro Bono Project and represented numerous clients on a pro bono basis, advocating for some of the members of our community most in need. We are all fortunate that CABA has some of the brightest legal minds at the helm, who are invested in addressing important issues facing our profession and community. CABA has an incredibly long list of

accomplishments, and I have no doubt that CABA will continue to have a lasting, positive impact on our community for many years to come.

#### Bio:

Judge James was born and raised in Miami, the youngest of four children. Following his graduation from Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Judge James earned his Bachelor of Arts with honors from the University of Texas at Austin, and then he returned home to attend law school at the University of Miami, where he graduated with high honors.

Judge James is an active member of our community and has dedicated his career to public service and pro bono work. He has been widely recognized for his efforts, including being awarded Attorney of the Year for Outstanding Child Advocacy and a Distinguished Advocate of Pro Bono Commitment.

Judge James was appointed to the Miami-Dade County Court in 2019, where he presided over cases in both the criminal and domestic violence divisions. In April 2020, Judge James was elevated to the Miami-Dade Circuit Court. He currently presides over a felony criminal division, as well as in the Felony Mental Health Diversion division, in which defendants with serious mental illnesses are provided with community-based treatment and support services.

Before his appointment to the bench, Judge James was a seasoned litigator. He worked in both the criminal and civil arenas, and in both the public and private sectors. As a litigator, he tried more than 30 jury trials and 100 bench trials to verdict.

Most recently before his appointment, Judge James was a litigation partner with Meland, Russin & Budwick, P.A., an AVrated law firm, where he concentrated on complex business litigation, financial fraud, and Ponzi scheme-related litigation. Before joining the firm, Judge James was a federal prosecutor in the Southern District of California. And prior to his service as a federal prosecutor, Mr. James was a state prosecutor in Florida and a trial attorney for the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on prosecuting human rights violations with the Human Rights Law Section. During his governmental career, Judge James investigated and tried high-profile cases involving human rights violations, major felony crimes, and homicide extradition proceedings. Additionally, he presented more than 100 cases for indictment to federal grand juries, authored numerous appellate briefs, and argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Judge James became a judge to make a positive difference in people's lives, and that continues to be his guiding principle. He is passionate about the law, about the pursuit of justice, and about the promotion of professionalism and civility in the practice of law. Judge James is a dedicated public servant and is committed to spending the rest of his career in public service as a judge.

Judge James is also involved in various professional and charitable organizations, and he is a former marathon runner and triathlon competitor.



Kaysia Earley is running for Broward County Court, Group 26. She earned her degree in Political Science from Howard University. While attending St. Thomas University School of Law, Mrs. Earley also worked full-time at the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the Patent Trial and Appeal Board Division, and volunteered at Legal Aid in the Housing and Landlord/Tenant division. Upon graduation, she began her career representing indigent clients at the Public Defender's office in Broward County. As an Assistant Public Defender, Mrs. Earley effectively managed a caseload of 180–220 clients, through all phases of the judicial process and tried 56 jury and non-jury trials.

In 2016, Mrs. Earley opened her own firm, Earley Law Firm, PLLC, which specializes in civil and criminal cases. As a Criminal Trial Lawyer, she gained recognition as an AV-rated lawyer by Martindale Hubbell. Even as a private attorney, she continued to serve her community by taking on pro-bono cases. She believes her government and litigation experience in various areas of law have afforded her with a well-rounded perspective that would prove to be an invaluable asset to the bench.

Mrs. Earley has earned the title of "Community Advocate." She has volunteered for atrisk youth at the juvenile detention center and young students throughout South Florida. She has tried over 100 jury and non-jury trials and secured over 250 dismissals on the day of trial. She has been awarded Broward County's Women of Tomorrow 2022 Mentor of the Year, The National Trial Lawyers, "Top 40 under 40" in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, Lawyer of Distinction in 2019, 2020, and 2021, and was featured as one of South Florida's most powerful and influential leaders' of 2020 in Legacy Magazine.

Mrs. Earley supports the work of the Cuban American Bar Association and believes the organization is an asset to ensure diversity in the legal profession, including the bench. Mrs. Earley enjoys sewing, liturgical dancing, and roller blading in her limited spare time. She is a wife to her husband of 18 years, and have four active children ages 17, 14, 11, and 8.

## **VOTE TO KEEP EXPERIENCE ON THE BENCH**



#### **EDUCATION**

Juris Doctor Magna cum laude Mercer University School of Law Macon, Georgia

> Bachelor of Arts Bucknell University Lewisburg, Pennsylvania



#### LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant State Attorney Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office

**Private Practice** Beighley, Myrick, Udell & Lynne, PA.



EP JUDGE JE

#### **JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE**

Miami-Dade County Judge Since April 30, 2020

Most active trial judge in the county!

Over 10,000 misdemeanor, felony, criminal traffic, and civil infraction cases



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#### OUR COMMUNITY

**Lifelong Resident:** Raised three children in Miami-Dade

#### **ASSOCIATIONS**

Served as chair and vice chair of: Florida Bar unlicensed practice of law

committee Also served as member of: Miami-Dade Bar

Florida Bar professional ethics committee Cuban American Bar Association Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association Coral Gables Bar Association Miami Lakes Bar Association among others



EARLY VOTING: August 8-21, 2022 ELECTION DAY: August 23, 2022 **www.KeepJudgeKolokoff.com** 

Pd. Pol. Adv. Paid for and approved by Keep Judge Jeff Kolokoff Campaign for Miami-Dade County Court, Group 19

## The 11th Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project (CMHP)

By Judge Steven Leifman

What you learn after several years on the bench—is that in many ways, the criminal justice system is the repository for many failed public policies. And there is no greater failed public policy than our treatment towards people with mental illnesses. The fact that we have applied a criminal justice model to an illness rather that a disease or population health model explains why we have failed this population so miserably.

My journey into the mental health system began one morning, twentytwo years ago when I was about to take the bench in the county court jail division. On this particular morning, one of the defendants turned out to be a Harvard educated psychiatrist who had a late onset of schizophrenia and was cycling between homelessness and the criminal justice system. After suffering a full-blown psychotic episode in court, he spent several weeks in the county jail on a very minor offense awaiting competency evaluations. Eventually, he was adjudicated incompetent to stand trial and released back to the street without any treatment. His case was a window to everything that was wrong with our behavioral health and criminal justice systems.

When I became a judge, I had no idea I was becoming the gatekeeper to the largest psychiatric facility in the State of Florida; the Miami-Dade County Jail.

Aside from the human cost, the fiscal impact is astronomical. Our jail contains as many beds serving inmates with mental illnesses as all state civil and forensic mental health hospitals combined. On any given day, 56 percent of jail inmates (2,400

individuals) are classified as having mental health treatment needs. Our county spends \$636,000 per day, or more than \$232 million dollars per year to warehouse inmates with mental illnesses. Comparatively, the state of Florida spends \$47.3 million dollars annually to provide mental health services to about 34,000 people in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, leaving almost 70,000 people in these two communities without access to any mental health services.

Over time, the impact of failing to provide adequate community-based treatment is considerable: Over a five-year period, 97 individuals with Serious Mental Illnesses who were identified as "heavy users" of acute care and institutional services accounted for 2,200 bookings into the Miami-Dade County jail, 27,000 days in jail, and 13,000 days in crisis units, state hospitals, and emergency rooms. The cost to taxpayers was estimated at nearly \$17 million with little impact on reducing recidivism or return on investment. The study was recently updated for these same individuals. From 1985 to the present, these 97 people were arrested 4,210 times and spent 97,438 days in the Miami-Dade County Jail, 92% were homeless and so far, have cost taxpayers almost \$26 million dollars.

While the United States has 4% of the world's population—we have 25% of the world's inmates!

70% of individuals in jail in the United States have a serious mental illness, a substance use disorder or both. The United States spends about \$1 trillion dollars in direct and indirect costs each year to incarcerate people. Prior to the pandemic, 1 out of every 115 adults were behind bars and 1 out of every 38 adults were under correctional supervision. Since 1980, the number of people going to jails and prison has increased by 500% and length of sentences has increased by 166%. Much of these increases are due to untreated mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

Annually, about 1.5 million people in the United States with serious mental illnesses are arrested in almost 2 million incidents. On any given day there are about 380,000 people with Serious Mental Illnesses in jails and prisons and another 574,000 are on probation or community control.

The 11th Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project (CMHP) was established in 2000 to divert individuals with serious mental illnesses, who do not pose public safety risks, away from the justice system and into comprehensive community-based treatment and support services.

The program operates two primary components: pre-booking diversion consisting of Crisis InterventionTeam (CIT) training for law enforcement officers and post-booking diversion serving individuals booked into the jail and awaiting adjudication. All participants are provided with individualized transition planning including linkages to communitybased treatment and support services.

In addition, we have implemented an alternative to competency restoration program in the felony division and an Assisted Outpatient Treatment program in the county court criminal division.

### The results have been stunning.

To date, the CMHP has provided CIT training to more than 7,600 law enforcement officers from all 36 local municipalities in Miami-Dade County, as well as Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department. Countywide, CIT officers are estimated to respond to roughly 20,000 mental health crisis calls per year.

From 2010 through 2019, Miami-Dade Police Department and City of Miami Police Department CIT Officers responded to 105,268 mental health crisis calls resulting in 66,556 diversions to treatment and just 198 arrests, accounting for fewer than 20 jail bookings per year. As a result, the total number of arrests in Miami-Dade fell from 118,000 per year to 53,000. The audit in the jail was reduced from 7,400 to 4,400 and the county was able to close one of its three main jails, saving the County \$12 million per year for a total savings so far of \$96 million dollars.

There are approximately 3,700 fewer arrests per year since implementing CIT, which equals 109,704 fewer arrests to date or **400** years of jail bed days at an annual cost avoidance of \$29 million per year. In addition, police shootings have also been significantly reduced.

The misdemeanor diversion program receives approximately 300 referrals annually. Recidivism rates among program participants has decreased from roughly 75 percent to 20 percent annually.

Participants in the felony jail diversion program are referred to the CMHP through several sources including Jail In-Reach, the Public Defender's Office, the State Attorney's Office, private attorneys, judges, corrections health services, and family members. All participants must meet diagnostic and legal criteria. At the time a person is accepted into the felony jail diversion program, the state attorney's office informs the court of the plea the defendant will be offered contingent upon successful program completion. Like the misdemeanor program, legal charges are often dismissed or modified based on treatment engagement. All program participants are assisted in accessing community-based services and supports, and their progress is monitored and reported back to the court by CMHP staff.

Individuals participating in the felony jail diversion program demonstrate reductions in jail bookings and jail days of more than 75 percent, with those who successfully complete the program demonstrating a recidivism rate of just 6 percent. Since 2008, the felony jail program alone is estimated to have saved the county over 31,000 jail days, more than 84 years of jail bed days.

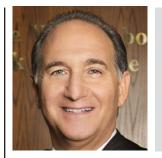
While existing diversion programs and community partnerships are producing remarkable results, there remains many individuals whose needs continue to be unmet because adequate treatment and service capacity in the community simply does not exist.

To address this, the CMHP is working with stakeholders from the county, the state, and the community to develop a first of its kind mental health diversion and treatment facility which will divert individuals into a seamless continuum of community-based treatment that leverages local, state, and federal resources. The purpose is to create a comprehensive and coordinated system of care for individuals who are frequent and costly recidivists to the criminal justice system, homeless continuum of care, and acute care medical and mental health treatment systems.

The building—which encompasses 181,000 square feet and has capacity for 208 beds—will include a central receiving center, an integrated crisis stabilization unit and addiction receiving facility, various levels of residential treatment, day treatment and day activity programs, outpatient behavioral health and primary care treatment services, dental, eye and podiatry services, vocational rehabilitation and supportive employment services, and classroom/educational spaces. The facility will also include a courtroom and space for social service agencies, such as housing providers, legal services, and immigration services that will address the comprehensive needs of individuals served. Capital funding for the project is provided by Miami-Dade County and the Jackson Health System—Public Health Trust. Construction will be completed by the end of July and operations at the facility should begin by the end of the year.

Allowing individuals with untreated or undertreated mental illnesses to recycle through jails repeatedly and frequently, is cruel, ineffective, and an inappropriate use of the justice system and taxpayer resources. Jails are not treatment facilities and judges are not doctors.

The CMHP offers a smarter way to address the needs of this vulnerable and underserved population, while enhancing health and safety in the community. Once engaged in treatment and services, individuals can achieve successful recovery and break the cycle of recidivism. By taking a targeted approach to addressing this public health need, many of the barriers and obstacles to navigating traditional community mental health and social services are eliminated and the need for a public safety response is diminished.



**Steve Leifman** is an Associate Administrative Judge in the County Criminal Division for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida.

## Florida's First Community Court-How did it begin?

#### By Chief Judge Jack Tuter and Judge Florence Taylor Barner

On January 8, 2019 the 17th Judicial Circuit together with the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County launched Florida's first and only Community Court. As of that date, almost 3,500 persons were housed in the county jails in Broward County. Chief Judge Jack Tuter said "we just can't continue to take everybody to the county jail" and embarked on creating this new court The purpose of the court was to divert and resolve minor municipal crimes committed by the at-large or homeless population. Community Court takes a therapeutic approach to criminal justice for non-violent offenders by offering community service-based punishment coupled with mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and access to on-site social service providers.

#### Who is involved?

Chief Judge Jack Tuter oversees the Court and Court Judge Florence Taylor Barner presides over Community Court. The Court's key partners include Fort Lauderdale City leaders, the city prosecutor's office and public defender's office, court administration, City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Henderson Behavioral Health, Broward Sheriff's Office, Broward County, Sunserve, Care Resource, OIC of South Florida, Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Second Chance Society, United Way of Broward County and other charitable organizations.

What crimes are eligible for Community Court?

First, criminal charges **are not** necessary for individuals to participate in the services available as the court is open to the community. However, if someone is charged with certain "quality of life" crimes (i.e., trespassing, disorderly conduct/disturbing the peace, public intoxication/open container violations, obstructing traffic and aggressive panhandling, *inter alia*), they may be eligible for Community





Court. Second, the conditions required of each individual eligible for Community Court will depend on that person's unique circumstances.

Conditions always include completion of community service in lieu of incarceration for those charged with an eligible offense and may include mental health counseling and/or residential or nonresidential substance abuse treatment. See the full Administrative Order here for more details http:// www.17th.flcourts.org/wp-content/ uploads/2019/01/2019-1-Crim.pdf

### What actually happens in Community Court?

Held every Wednesday morning at 11:00am at City Hall in Fort Lauderdale; Because so many social services were already in place the idea of convening all of those services in a courtroom was born. The Court is therapy based. The emphasis is to find housing, provide health care, resolve pending criminal charges, and require community service by those who resolve their case in community court. The Court does not incarcerate and instead refers any such case to a regular criminal court division. Entry into community court is strictly voluntary and usually begins when the arresting officers give a "notice to appear" to the arrested individual who is told to appear in community court instead of taken to the county jail.

Community Court has had many successes. Unfortunately, it has also had setbacks, almost all attributable to Covid-19 issues. Despite those setbacks the Court continued forward in tents in a public park. Kudos for the success of the court go to the providers who come every Wednesday, screen the persons on the court docket and offer solutions to their problems. Many, many kudos go to Judge Florence Barner, the presiding judge of Community Court since its inception. Judge Barner is constantly thinking outside the box to provide things like mobile showers, haircuts, a clothing bank and bagged lunches.

Because of the success of Community Court in Fort Lauderdale, the  $17^{th}$ 

Judicial Circuit will soon open Community Courts in the city of Pompano Beach and Hollywood, Florida. Community Court offers an alternative to dealing with citizens charged with quality of life crimes. The challenges for Community Court will always remain securing of temporary and permanent housing. We as a society can continue to complain about the problem or offer out of the box solutions to the homeless population. Community Court offers just such an alternative. It will not solve the problem but result in a more humane and dignified way of helping our fellow citizens.

See the opening of Community Court here: https://youtu.be/ pQ4sMBxnm7Q.



**Chief Judge Jack Tuter** is the Chief Judge for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida.



**Judge Florence Taylor Barner** is a Judge in the Civil Division for the Broward County Court in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida.







## EXPERIENCE

- 19 Years as a Trial Lawyer
- 4 Years as a Prosecutor
- 15 Years as a Civil Litigator
- 4 Years as a School Board Hearing Officer

## JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY

- **Fairness**
- Equity
- Efficiency

## **COMMUNITY TIES**

- Went to NSU Law from 1999 to 2002
- Taught at NSU Law from 2009 to 2015
- **Former Chief of Training for Broward SAO**
- 11 Years Total as a Broward Resident

### For more information

🗹 info@taniaforjudge.com 🛛 🌐 www.taniaforjudge.com

#### PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

## Thursday, July 7, 2022 SunSentinel

## **Gary Farmer for Broward** circuit judge, Group 23

"...over his three-decade legal career [he] has handled cases ranging from insurance defense to eminent domain, to personal injury."

"He has a thorough understanding of the courts and their relationship to the other two branches of government."

"...as a legislator, he showed compassion for others and a keen understanding of the law and pledges to 'apply the law as written."



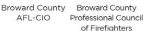


"As a 6-year-old, I sometimes sat in the back of my father's classrooms and later in his courtrooms to watch his trials. I knew then that I wanted to be a lawyer - just like him. My father became a distinguished appellate judge and I became a lawyer. As a lawyer for the past 31 years, I fought for the rights of individuals and also became a leader in the Florida Senate. In our judicial system, fairness and justice for all still matters - and in my courtroom, nothing will matter more."

Gary Farmer is also endorsed and supported by the:















#### GaryFarmerforJudge.com

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Gary M. Farmer, Jr., nonpartisan, for Circuit Court, 17th Judicial Circuit, Group 23

District 5 (FOP)

## The 2022 CABA Judicial Poll

By Javier Ley-Soto, CABA Board of Directors, Vice President and Chair of the Legislative Committee

The 2022 election cycle marks an opportunity for voters throughout the state to select those they want to lead our various branches of government. In Florida, we have the choice to make who we want to serve as the judges presiding over legal cases. From criminal matters to our civil and family cases and all in between, the voting electorate has a say in who we want to preside over what can be the most critical events in our lives.

Many often ask, "Who do I vote for?" Unlike candidates running for the executive and legislative branches, the candidates for the judicial branch have significant restrictions on how thev campaign and educate voters about why they are the right choice. The vast majority of voters do not have the opportunity to see or really learn about a judge due to these limitations. Many rely on their limited experiences in court or through a friend they know who has been involved in a court case. Unfortunately, those experiences are often based on limited interaction with a judge and the case was either in their favor or not. These opinions are more anecdotal than not.

Attorneys, on the other hand, generally have opinions of judges based on their experience appearing before them on a regular basis and on different cases. Attorneys know that a judge may not always rule in their client's favor, but their hope that the judge will agree with their position more than their opposing counsel. It is with this unique experience that drives the importance of the CABA Judicial Poll.

The CABA Judicial Poll is designed to capture the impressions of the judicial candidates up for election or retention from CABA Members. The Poll seeks the opinions of its members as to a judicial candidate's qualifications, competence, and their treatment of Hispanics and other attorneys, and as applicable for incumbents, their management of cases and office operations. The Poll is limited to CABA members and responses are completely anonymous.

The 2022 CABA Judicial Poll consists of 12 questions asked

of the 3 county court incumbent judicial candidates and their opponents, 4 circuit court incumbent judicial candidates and their opponents, and the 31 county and circuit court judges elected without opposition this election cycle. The Poll opened July 5, 2022 and accepted responses over a 3 week period closing July 24, 2022.

CABA hopes its Poll will help educate voters and help them decide who they want as part of the judicial branch of government. Together with information gleaned from limited campaign materials and judicial meet and greets, voters will have another resource to gauge decision.



Candidates Running for Judge (not a current judge)

Is this Candidate qualified / competent to be a judge?				
	<b>Exceptionally Qualified</b>	Qualified	Unqualified	No Opinion
Teressa Maria Cervera	4.11%	2.74%	63.01%	30.14%
Brenda Guerrero	2.99%	16.42%	37.31%	43.28%
Ariel Rodriguez	26.39%	30.56%	16.67%	26.39%
Jason Edward Bloch	21.74%	37.68%	28.99%	11.59%
Renier Diaz de la Portilla	7.25%	14.49%	71.01%	7.25%
Lissette De La Rosa	4.55%	19.70%	27.27%	48.48%
Alicia Garcia Priovolos	31.43%	25.71%	18.57%	24.29%
Does this Candidate posse	ss the appropriate cha	aracter to sit as j	judge?	
		Yes	No	No Opinion
Teressa Maria Cervera		7.25%	57.97%	34.78%
Brenda Guerrero		25.81%	25.81%	48.39%
Ariel Rodriguez		57.35%	10.29%	32.35%
Jason Edward Bloch		53.73%	29.85%	16.42%
Renier Diaz de la Portilla		23.88%	58.21%	17.91%
Lissette De La Rosa		22.58%	17.74%	59.68%
Alicia Garcia Priovolos		56.06%	15.15%	28.79%
Does the Candidate treat H	lispanics fairly and eq	uitably?		
		Yes	No	No Opinion
Teressa Maria Cervera		7.46%	17.91%	74.63%
Brenda Guerrero		24.59%	9.84%	65.57%
Ariel Rodriguez		47.06%	5.88%	47.06%
Jason Edward Bloch		44.78%	17.91%	37.31%
Renier Diaz de la Portilla		34.85%	13.64%	51.52%
Lissette De La Rosa		19.35%	11.29%	69.35%
Alicia Garcia Priovolos		48.48%	9.09%	42.42%
Treats everyone equitable orientation?	ly regardless of race,	ethnicity, gend	er, religion, or	sexual
		Yes	No	No Opinion
Teressa Maria Cervera		5.97%	17.91%	76.12%
Brenda Guerrero		22.95%	9.84%	67.21%
Ariel Rodriguez		45.59%	4.41%	50.00%
Jason Edward Bloch		46.27%	20.90%	32.84%
Renier Diaz de la Portilla		30.30%	21.21%	48.48%
Lissette De La Rosa		19.67%	11.48%	68.85%
Alicia Garcia Priovolos		48.48%	9.09%	42.42%

Is this Candidate qualified / competent to be a judge?				
	<b>Exceptionally Qualified</b>	Qualified	Unqualified	No Opinion
Lody Jean	64.79%	28.17%	0.00%	7.04%
Christina Marie DiRaimondo	38.98%	44.07%	3.39%	13.56%
Laura Cruz	43.14%	31.37%	0.00%	25.49%
Marcia del Rey	15.69%	37.25%	31.37%	15.69%
Scott M. Bernstein	60.00%	32.73%	5.45%	1.82%
Bertila A. Soto	77.05%	18.03%	1.64%	3.28%
Thomas "Tomás" Rebull	48.21%	35.71%	3.57%	12.50%
Robert Watson	44.83%	32.76%	5.17%	17.24%
William Altfield	53.57%	32.14%	1.79%	12.50%
Jennifer D. Bailey	62.50%	26.79%	3.57%	7.14%
Barbara Areces	40.74%	50.00%	3.70%	5.56%
Mark Blumstein	9.84%	36.07%	40.98%	13.11%
David H.Young	38.46%	48.08%	9.62%	3.85%
William Thomas	56.86%	25.49%	7.84%	9.80%
Milton "Milt" Hirsch	54.90%	29.41%	3.92%	11.76%
Samantha Ruiz Cohen	70.00%	22.00%	2.00%	6.00%
Ramiro Areces	32.65%	46.94%	2.04%	18.37%
Oscar Rodriguez-Fonts	26.67%	51.67%	6.67%	15.00%
Nushin G. Sayfie	72.73%	18.18%	1.82%	7.27%
Gina Beovides	58.93%	35.71%	1.79%	3.57%
Marlene A. Fernandez-	27.66%	42.55%	2.13%	27.66%
Karavetsos				
Zachary N. James	43.75%	31.25%	2.08%	22.92%
George "Jorge" A. Sarduy	30.61%	48.98%	8.16%	12.24%
Ayana Harris	30.43%	36.96%	0.00%	32.61%
Fred Seraphin	26.32%	50.88%	5.26%	17.54%
Marcus R. Bach Armas	20.41%	40.82%	0.00%	38.78%
Carlos H. Gamez	34.69%	42.86%	0.00%	22.45%
Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson	34.04%	46.81%	0.00%	19.15%
Elisabeth Espinosa	24.44%	48.89%	8.89%	17.78%
Linda Melendez	19.57%	36.96%	2.17%	41.30%
Jeffrey Kolokoff	35.19%	31.48%	3.70%	29.63%
Carroll Kelly	68.00%	20.00%	2.00%	10.00%
Miesha S. Darrough	31.25%	37.50%	0.00%	31.25%
Cristina Rivera Correa	25.53%	38.30%	4.26%	31.91%
Chiaka Ihekwaba	35.42%	35.42%	4.17%	25.00%
Julie Harris Nelson	28.26%	34.78%	2.17%	34.78%
Scott Janowitz	44.44%	24.07%	5.56%	25.93%

Does this Candidate possess the appropriate character to sit as judge?			
	Yes	No	No Opinion
Lody Jean	95.38%	0.00%	4.62%
Christina Marie DiRaimondo	86.79%	1.89%	11.32%
Laura Cruz	79.07%	0.00%	20.93%
Marcia del Rey	47.73%	27.27%	25.00%
Scott M. Bernstein	89.58%	6.25%	4.17%
Bertila A. Soto	94.34%	3.77%	1.89%
Thomas "Tomás" Rebull	85.71%	6.12%	8.16%
Robert Watson	81.63%	2.04%	16.33%
William Altfield	84.78%	4.35%	10.87%
Jennifer D. Bailey	85.71%	8.16%	6.12%
Barbara Areces	87.50%	4.17%	8.33%
Mark Blumstein	46.30%	35.19%	18.52%
David H.Young	70.21%	12.77%	17.02%
William Thomas	79.07%	11.63%	9.30%
Milton "Milt" Hirsch	77.27%	11.36%	11.36%
Samantha Ruiz Cohen	90.91%	2.27%	6.82%
Ramiro Areces	83.33%	2.38%	14.29%
Oscar Rodriguez-Fonts	77.78%	7.41%	14.81%
Nushin G. Sayfie	95.65%	2.17%	2.17%
Gina Beovides	95.83%	2.08%	2.08%
Marlene A. Fernandez-Karavetsos	70.73%	0.00%	29.27%
Zachary N. James	80.00%	0.00%	20.00%
George "Jorge" A. Sarduy	75.00%	11.36%	13.64%
Ayana Harris	69.23%	0.00%	30.77%
Fred Seraphin	73.47%	6.12%	20.41%
Marcus R. Bach Armas	71.43%	0.00%	28.57%
Carlos H. Gamez	76.19%	2.38%	21.43%
Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson	85.00%	0.00%	15.00%
Elisabeth Espinosa	72.50%	7.50%	20.00%
Linda Melendez	58.97%	0.00%	41.03%
Jeffrey Kolokoff	68.09%	0.00%	31.91%
Carroll Kelly	90.70%	2.33%	6.98%
Miesha S. Darrough	70.00%	0.00%	30.00%
Cristina Rivera Correa	67.50%	2.50%	30.00%
Chiaka Ihekwaba	78.05%	2.44%	19.51%
Julie Harris Nelson	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%
Scott Janowitz	71.74%	6.52%	21.74%

Preparedness for Hearing?				
	Exceptionally	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No Opinion
Lody Jean	69.84%	14.29%	0.00%	15.87%
Christina Marie DiRaimondo	38.78%	34.69%	2.04%	24.49%
Laura Cruz	46.34%	21.95%	0.00%	31.71%
Marcia del Rey	16.67%	23.81%	23.81%	35.71%
Scott M. Bernstein	61.70%	25.53%	4.26%	8.51%
Bertila A. Soto	82.00%	8.00%	2.00%	8.00%
Thomas "Tomás" Rebull	55.32%	29.79%	2.13%	12.77%
Robert Watson	48.94%	27.66%	4.26%	19.15%
William Altfield	51.16%	32.56%	4.65%	11.63%
Jennifer D. Bailey	59.57%	25.53%	2.13%	12.77%
Barbara Areces	36.96%	45.65%	4.35%	13.04%
Mark Blumstein	11.54%	34.62%	26.92%	26.92%
David H.Young	38.64%	34.09%	6.82%	20.45%
William Thomas	50.00%	23.81%	11.90%	14.29%
Milton "Milt" Hirsch	50.00%	26.19%	4.76%	19.05%
Samantha Ruiz Cohen	72.09%	13.95%	2.33%	11.63%
Ramiro Areces	39.02%	31.71%	2.44%	26.83%
Oscar Rodriguez-Fonts	38.46%	36.54%	3.85%	21.15%
Nushin G. Sayfie	75.00%	13.64%	2.27%	9.09%
Gina Beovides	67.39%	23.91%	2.17%	6.52%
Marlene A. Fernandez-	35.00%	25.00%	2.50%	37.50%
Karavetsos				
Zachary N. James	46.15%	20.51%	0.00%	33.33%
George "Jorge" A. Sarduy	32.56%	34.88%	9.30%	23.26%
Ayana Harris	29.73%	32.43%	0.00%	37.84%
Fred Seraphin	25.53%	42.55%	4.26%	27.66%
Marcus R. Bach Armas	18.42%	13.16%	0.00%	68.42%
Carlos H. Gamez	39.02%	26.83%	0.00%	34.15%
Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson	41.03%	30.77%	0.00%	28.21%
Elisabeth Espinosa	28.21%	33.33%	5.13%	33.33%
Linda Melendez	18.42%	26.32%	0.00%	55.26%
Jeffrey Kolokoff	38.64%	22.73%	0.00%	38.64%
Carroll Kelly	57.14%	23.81%	2.38%	16.67%
Miesha S. Darrough	35.90%	23.08%	0.00%	41.03%
Cristina Rivera Correa	28.21%	28.21%	2.56%	41.03%
Chiaka Ihekwaba	38.46%	25.64%	2.56%	33.33%
Julie Harris Nelson	27.03%	29.73%	0.00%	43.24%
Scott Janowitz	47.83%	10.87%	6.52%	34.78%

<b>Remote Court Operations?</b>				
	Exceptionally	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No Opinion
Lody Jean	55.74%	16.39%	0.00%	27.87%
Christina Marie DiRaimondo	31.91%	29.79%	2.13%	36.17%
Laura Cruz	36.84%	13.16%	0.00%	50.00%
Marcia del Rey	7.69%	23.08%	15.38%	53.85%
Scott M. Bernstein	45.45%	22.73%	2.27%	29.55%
Bertila A. Soto	68.09%	8.51%	2.13%	21.28%
Thomas "Tomás" Rebull	40.91%	27.27%	2.27%	29.55%
Robert Watson	40.91%	29.55%	2.27%	27.27%
William Altfield	45.00%	30.00%	2.50%	22.50%
Jennifer D. Bailey	54.55%	18.18%	2.27%	25.00%
Barbara Areces	37.21%	30.23%	2.33%	30.23%
Mark Blumstein	12.24%	30.61%	18.37%	38.78%
David H.Young	31.71%	24.39%	7.32%	36.59%
William Thomas	36.84%	31.58%	2.63%	28.95%
Milton "Milt" Hirsch	35.90%	28.21%	5.13%	30.77%
Samantha Ruiz Cohen	53.66%	17.07%	2.44%	26.83%
Ramiro Areces	28.95%	28.95%	2.63%	39.47%
Oscar Rodriguez-Fonts	38.78%	32.65%	4.08%	24.49%
Nushin G. Sayfie	68.29%	12.20%	2.44%	17.07%
Gina Beovides	55.81%	23.26%	2.33%	18.60%
Marlene A. Fernandez-	37.84%	13.51%	0.00%	48.65%
Karavetsos Zachary N. Jamos				44.44%
Zachary N. James	36.11%	19.44%	0.00%	
George "Jorge" A. Sarduy	25.00%	27.50%	10.00%	37.50%
Ayana Harris	26.47%	23.53% 38.64%	0.00%	50.00% 38.64%
Fred Seraphin Marcus R. Bach Armas	22.73%	-	0.00%	-
	17.14%	11.43%	2.86% 0.00%	68.57%
Carlos H. Gamez	36.84%	26.32%		36.84%
Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson	27.78%	27.78%	0.00%	44.44%
Elisabeth Espinosa	25.00%	27.78%	2.78%	44.44%
Linda Melendez	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%	57.14%
Jeffrey Kolokoff	31.71%	26.83%	0.00%	41.46%
Carroll Kelly Missha & Damoush	46.15%	17.95%	2.56%	33.33%
Miesha S. Darrough	27.78%	25.00%	2.78%	44.44%
Cristina Rivera Correa	25.00%	27.78%	2.78%	44.44%
Chiaka Ihekwaba	33.33%	27.78%	2.78%	36.11%
Julie Harris Nelson	20.59%	29.41%	0.00%	50.00%
Scott Janowitz	41.86%	16.28%	6.98%	34.88%

Case Management?				
	Exceptionally	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No Opinion
Lody Jean	57.38%	19.67%	0.00%	22.95%
Christina Marie DiRaimondo	36.17%	31.91%	2.13%	29.79%
Laura Cruz	42.11%	15.79%	0.00%	42.11%
Marcia del Rey	12.82%	28.21%	25.64%	33.33%
Scott M. Bernstein	56.82%	22.73%	2.27%	18.18%
Bertila A. Soto	76.60%	8.51%	2.13%	12.77%
Thomas "Tomás" Rebull	47.73%	31.82%	2.27%	18.18%
Robert Watson	40.91%	34.09%	2.27%	22.73%
William Altfield	47.50%	32.50%	2.50%	17.50%
Jennifer D. Bailey	59.09%	18.18%	4.55%	18.18%
Barbara Areces	44.19%	30.23%	2.33%	23.26%
Mark Blumstein	10.20%	32.65%	30.61%	26.53%
David H.Young	29.27%	34.15%	7.32%	29.27%
William Thomas	38.46%	28.21%	15.38%	17.95%
Milton "Milt" Hirsch	43.59%	25.64%	10.26%	20.51%
Samantha Ruiz Cohen	62.50%	15.00%	2.50%	20.00%
Ramiro Areces	34.21%	28.95%	2.63%	34.21%
Oscar Rodriguez-Fonts	36.73%	36.73%	6.12%	20.41%
Nushin G. Sayfie	65.85%	14.63%	2.44%	17.07%
Gina Beovides	58.14%	23.26%	4.65%	13.95%
Marlene A. Fernandez-	37.84%	16.22%	0.00%	45.95%
Karavetsos				
Zachary N. James	38.89%	22.22%	0.00%	38.89%
George "Jorge" A. Sarduy	27.50%	27.50%	12.50%	32.50%
Ayana Harris	35.29%	20.59%	0.00%	44.12%
Fred Seraphin	25.00%	38.64%	2.27%	34.09%
Marcus R. Bach Armas	20.00%	11.43%	2.86%	65.71%
Carlos H. Gamez	34.21%	31.58%	0.00%	34.21%
Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson	30.56%	30.56%	0.00%	38.89%
Elisabeth Espinosa	27.78%	30.56%	2.78%	38.89%
Linda Melendez	20.00%	28.57%	0.00%	51.43%
Jeffrey Kolokoff	36.59%	26.83%	2.44%	34.15%
Carroll Kelly	53.85%	17.95%	2.56%	25.64%
Miesha S. Darrough	32.43%	24.32%	0.00%	43.24%
Cristina Rivera Correa	27.78%	27.78%	2.78%	41.67%
Chiaka Ihekwaba	36.11%	25.00%	5.56%	33.33%
Julie Harris Nelson	26.47%	29.41%	0.00%	44.12%
Scott Janowitz	48.84%	16.28%	4.65%	30.23%

Hearing Availability?				
	<b>Exceptionally Qualified</b>	Qualified	Unqualified	No Opinion
Lody Jean	60.00%	16.67%	0.00%	23.33%
Christina Marie DiRaimondo	36.96%	30.43%	4.35%	28.26%
Laura Cruz	40.54%	16.22%	0.00%	43.24%
Marcia del Rey	13.16%	26.32%	26.32%	34.21%
Scott M. Bernstein	52.38%	26.19%	7.14%	14.29%
Bertila A. Soto	71.11%	11.11%	2.22%	15.56%
Thomas "Tomás" Rebull	50.00%	26.19%	2.38%	21.43%
Robert Watson	41.86%	32.56%	4.65%	20.93%
William Altfield	46.15%	35.90%	5.13%	12.82%
Jennifer D. Bailey	51.16%	27.91%	2.33%	18.60%
Barbara Areces	34.15%	36.59%	4.88%	24.39%
Mark Blumstein	10.42%	29.17%	25.00%	35.42%
David H.Young	29.27%	34.15%	9.76%	26.83%
William Thomas	44.74%	26.32%	7.89%	21.05%
Milton "Milt" Hirsch	41.03%	28.21%	7.69%	23.08%
Samantha Ruiz Cohen	58.97%	20.51%	2.56%	17.95%
Ramiro Areces	32.43%	32.43%	2.70%	32.43%
Oscar Rodriguez-Fonts	36.17%	38.30%	4.26%	21.28%
Nushin G. Sayfie	68.29%	9.76%	2.44%	19.51%
Gina Beovides	58.14%	20.93%	4.65%	16.28%
Marlene A. Fernandez-	33.33%	19.44%	0.00%	47.22%
Karavetsos				
Zachary N. James	40.00%	22.86%	0.00%	37.14%
George "Jorge" A. Sarduy	25.64%	28.21%	10.26%	35.90%
Ayana Harris	30.30%	24.24%	0.00%	45.45%
Fred Seraphin	25.58%	39.53%	0.00%	34.88%
Marcus R. Bach Armas	20.59%	11.76%	0.00%	67.65%
Carlos H. Gamez	29.73%	32.43%	0.00%	37.84%
Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson	25.71%	28.57%	0.00%	45.71%
Elisabeth Espinosa	28.57%	28.57%	2.86%	40.00%
Linda Melendez	17.14%	31.43%	0.00%	51.43%
Jeffrey Kolokoff	32.50%	32.50%	0.00%	35.00%
Carroll Kelly	47.37%	18.42%	2.63%	31.58%
Miesha S. Darrough	30.56%	25.00%	0.00%	44.44%
Cristina Rivera Correa	25.00%	30.56%	2.78%	41.67%
Chiaka Ihekwaba	28.57%	28.57%	5.71%	37.14%
Julie Harris Nelson	24.24%	30.30%	0.00%	45.45%
Scott Janowitz	44.19%	18.60%	4.65%	32.56%

Timeliness of Rulings?				
	<b>Exceptionally Qualified</b>	Qualified	Unqualified	No Opinion
Lody Jean	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Christina Marie DiRaimondo	41.38%	34.48%	0.00%	24.14%
Laura Cruz	31.82%	22.73%	0.00%	45.45%
Marcia del Rey	8.33%	29.17%	20.83%	41.67%
Scott M. Bernstein	44.44%	40.74%	0.00%	14.81%
Bertila A. Soto	51.72%	24.14%	3.45%	20.69%
Thomas "Tomás" Rebull	46.43%	28.57%	7.14%	17.86%
Robert Watson	43.33%	33.33%	0.00%	23.33%
William Altfield	42.31%	42.31%	0.00%	15.38%
Jennifer D. Bailey	46.43%	28.57%	3.57%	21.43%
Barbara Areces	34.62%	38.46%	3.85%	23.08%
Mark Blumstein	12.90%	35.48%	22.58%	29.03%
David H.Young	34.62%	30.77%	7.69%	26.92%
William Thomas	30.77%	34.62%	11.54%	23.08%
Milton "Milt" Hirsch	44.00%	28.00%	0.00%	28.00%
Samantha Ruiz Cohen	57.69%	23.08%	7.69%	11.54%
Ramiro Areces	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%
Oscar Rodriguez-Fonts	25.00%	43.75%	9.38%	21.88%
Nushin G. Sayfie	50.00%	25.00%	3.57%	21.43%
Gina Beovides	48.15%	29.63%	3.70%	18.52%
Marlene A. Fernandez-	29.17%	25.00%	4.17%	41.67%
Karavetsos				
Zachary N. James	33.33%	29.17%	0.00%	37.50%
George "Jorge" A. Sarduy	20.00%	32.00%	12.00%	36.00%
Ayana Harris	27.27%	27.27%	0.00%	45.45%
Fred Seraphin	20.00%	50.00%	0.00%	30.00%
Marcus R. Bach Armas	9.52%	19.05%	0.00%	71.43%
Carlos H. Gamez	26.09%	34.78%	0.00%	39.13%
Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson	25.00%	33.33%	0.00%	41.67%
Elisabeth Espinosa	20.83%	37.50%	4.17%	37.50%
Linda Melendez	20.83%	33.33%	0.00%	45.83%
Jeffrey Kolokoff	28.57%	32.14%	0.00%	39.29%
Carroll Kelly	38.46%	23.08%	3.85%	34.62%
Miesha S. Darrough	30.43%	21.74%	0.00%	47.83%
Cristina Rivera Correa	24.00%	28.00%	4.00%	44.00%
Chiaka Ihekwaba	20.83%	41.67%	4.17%	33.33%
Julie Harris Nelson	18.18%	31.82%	0.00%	50.00%
Scott Janowitz	38.71%	22.58%	3.23%	35.48%

Does the Candidate treat Hispanics fairly and equitably?			
	Yes	No	No Opinion
Lody Jean	89.47%	0.00%	10.53%
Christina Marie DiRaimondo	82.14%	0.00%	17.86%
Laura Cruz	61.90%	4.76%	33.33%
Marcia del Rey	52.17%	8.70%	39.13%
Scott M. Bernstein	88.46%	0.00%	11.54%
Bertila A. Soto	82.14%	7.14%	10.71%
Thomas "Tomás" Rebull	77.78%	3.70%	18.52%
Robert Watson	82.76%	0.00%	17.24%
William Altfield	80.00%	4.00%	16.00%
Jennifer D. Bailey	77.78%	7.41%	14.81%
Barbara Areces	80.00%	4.00%	16.00%
Mark Blumstein	50.00%	16.67%	33.33%
David H.Young	68.00%	8.00%	24.00%
William Thomas	80.00%	4.00%	16.00%
Milton "Milt" Hirsch	83.33%	4.17%	12.50%
Samantha Ruiz Cohen	84.00%	4.00%	12.00%
Ramiro Areces	73.91%	4.35%	21.74%
Oscar Rodriguez-Fonts	83.33%	6.67%	10.00%
Nushin G. Sayfie	85.19%	3.70%	11.11%
Gina Beovides	84.62%	3.85%	11.54%
Marlene A. Fernandez-Karavetsos	69.57%	0.00%	30.43%
Zachary N. James	78.26%	0.00%	21.74%
George "Jorge" A. Sarduy	66.67%	16.67%	16.67%
Ayana Harris	61.90%	0.00%	38.10%
Fred Seraphin	68.97%	3.45%	27.59%
Marcus R. Bach Armas	45.00%	0.00%	55.00%
Carlos H. Gamez	68.18%	4.55%	27.27%
Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson	69.57%	0.00%	30.43%
Elisabeth Espinosa	65.22%	8.70%	26.09%
Linda Melendez	60.87%	0.00%	39.13%
Jeffrey Kolokoff	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%
Carroll Kelly	76.00%	4.00%	20.00%
Miesha S. Darrough	50.00%	4.55%	45.45%
Cristina Rivera Correa	62.50%	4.17%	33.33%
Chiaka Ihekwaba	69.57%	4.35%	26.09%
Julie Harris Nelson	52.38%	0.00%	47.62%
Scott Janowitz	73.33%	0.00%	26.67%

Judges Running for Re-election in Contested or Uncontested Elections

Treats everyone equitably regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or sexual orientation?

orientation?			
	Yes	No	No Opinion
Lody Jean	92.11%	0.00%	7.89%
Christina Marie DiRaimondo	85.71%	0.00%	14.29%
Laura Cruz	61.90%	0.00%	38.10%
Marcia del Rey	52.17%	8.70%	39.13%
Scott M. Bernstein	88.46%	0.00%	11.54%
Bertila A. Soto	82.14%	7.14%	10.71%
Thomas "Tomás" Rebull	77.78%	3.70%	18.52%
Robert Watson	82.76%	0.00%	17.24%
William Altfield	79.17%	4.17%	16.67%
Jennifer D. Bailey	77.78%	7.41%	14.81%
Barbara Areces	80.00%	4.00%	16.00%
Mark Blumstein	50.00%	13.33%	36.67%
David H.Young	72.00%	4.00%	24.00%
William Thomas	80.00%	4.00%	16.00%
Milton "Milt" Hirsch	79.17%	8.33%	12.50%
Samantha Ruiz Cohen	84.00%	4.00%	12.00%
Ramiro Areces	73.91%	4.35%	21.74%
Oscar Rodriguez-Fonts	83.33%	6.67%	10.00%
Nushin G. Sayfie	85.19%	3.70%	11.11%
Gina Beovides	84.62%	3.85%	11.54%
Marlene A. Fernandez-Karavetsos	69.57%	0.00%	30.43%
Zachary N. James	78.26%	0.00%	21.74%
George "Jorge" A. Sarduy	66.67%	16.67%	16.67%
Ayana Harris	61.90%	0.00%	38.10%
Fred Seraphin	60.71%	10.71%	28.57%
Marcus R. Bach Armas	45.00%	0.00%	55.00%
Carlos H. Gamez	72.73%	0.00%	27.27%
Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson	69.57%	0.00%	30.43%
Elisabeth Espinosa	69.57%	8.70%	21.74%
Linda Melendez	60.87%	0.00%	39.13%
Jeffrey Kolokoff	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%
Carroll Kelly	76.00%	4.00%	20.00%
Miesha S. Darrough	59.09%	4.55%	36.36%
Cristina Rivera Correa	56.52%	8.70%	34.78%
Chiaka Ihekwaba	69.57%	4.35%	26.09%
Julie Harris Nelson	52.38%	0.00%	47.62%
Scott Janowitz	73.33%	0.00%	26.67%



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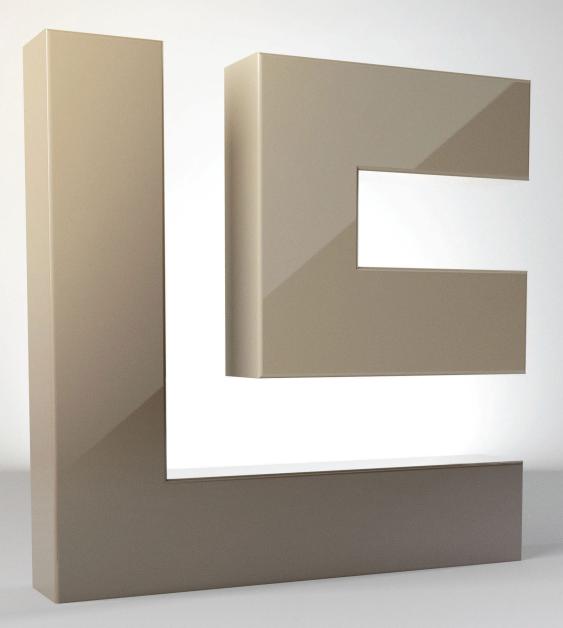
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