## APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT

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

DATE	: January 3	0, 2014		Florida Bar N	No.:	079724	3		
GENE	RAL:			Social Secur	ity No.:				
1.	Name Leste	er Bernard Bass		E-mail: _le	esterbas	s@bells	outh.n	et	
	Date Admitted	to Practice in Flo	rida:	April 1989					
	Date Admitted	to Practice in oth	er States:	N/A					
2.	State current e judicial office.	employer and title,	, including	professional	position	and any	publi	с ог	
	Current Emplo	yer: State of Flor	ida/Duval	County Court	ts				
,	Title: General	Magistrate/Heari	ng Officer						
3.	Business addr	ess: 501 West	Adams St	reet					
	City Jackson	ville	County _	Duval	State	Fla.	ZIP	3220	2
	Telephone (9	04) 255-1175		FAX	(904) 2	<u>255-1</u> 227	,		
4.	Residential ad	dress:							
	City		_						
	Since No	ovember 2007	Telep	phone					
5.	Place of birth:	Durham, North (	Carolina						
	Date of birth:			Age: _50	years o	old			
6a.	Length of resid	ence in State of Fl	lorida: 2	5 years					
6b.	Are you a regis	stered voter? 🛛 Y	∕es 🗌 No	)					
	If so, in what c	ounty are you reg	istered?	Duval					
7.	Marital status:	Married							
	If married:	Spouse's name						_	
		Date of marriage	9					_	
		Spouse's occupa	ation						
		d give for each ma , date and place o							ch

N/A

8.	Children			
	Name(s)	Age(s)	Occupation(s)	Residential address(es)
9.	Military Service (incl	uding Reserves)		
	Service	Branch	Highest Rank	Dates
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Rank at time of discl	narge N/A	Type of discharge	N/A
	Awards or citations	N/A		
HEAL	.TH:			
10.				
11a.				

11b.

12a.

12b.

13.

14.

15.	
16.	
,	
17.	
EDU	CATION:
18a	Secondary schools, colleges and law schools attended.

Schools	Class Standing	Dates of Attendance	Degree
Hillside High School	4th	1977 - 1981	High School Diploma
Duke University	N/A	1981 - 1985	Bachelor of Arts
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law	N/A	1985 - 1988	Juris Doctor

List and describe academic scholarships earned, honor societies or other awards. 18b. High School Honors Graduate and National Merit Scholar

#### **NON-LEGAL EMPLOYMENT:**

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

Date	Position	Employer	Address
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

#### PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS:

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

Court or Administrative Body

Date of Admission

The Florida Bar

**April 1989** 

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

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

Position	Name of Firm	Address	Dates
		427 Evans Street	
Legal Intern	Pamlico Sound Legal Services, Inc.	Greenville, NC 27858	Summer 1987
Staff Attorney	Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc.	326 W, Adams St. Jacksonville, Fla 32202	June 1988 - June 1992
Assistant State Attorney	Office of State Attorney	220 E. Bay St. Jacksonville, Fla 32202	June 1992 - June 1994
Bivens, Jones and Associates	Associate Attorney	1543 Kingsley Ave. Orange Park, Fla 32073	July 1994 - December 1996

22. Describe the general nature of your current practice including any certifications which you possess; additionally, if your practice is substantially different from your prior practice or if you are not now practicing law, give details of prior practice. Describe your typical clients or former clients and the problems for which they sought your services.

For the past 11 years, I have served as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer working in the areas of Family Law, Juvenile Dependency, Marchman Act, Baker Act, and Drug Court cases in Duval, Clay, and Nassau Counties. Additionally, I have worked as a Civil Traffic Hearing Officer handling County Court civil traffic violations. Prior to becoming a Magistrate, I operated a general practice in which I provided zealous representation to my clients in the areas of juvenile dependency, juvenile delinquency, family law, personal injury law, and criminal defense.

23. What percentage of your appearance in courts in the last five years or last five years of

practice (include the dates) was in:

(	Court		Area of	Practice	
Federal Appellate	0	%	Civil	55	. %
Federal Trial	0	. %	Criminal	25	%
Federal Other	5	%	Family	10	%
State Appellate	0	%	Probate	0	%
State Trial	99.5	%	Other	10	%
State Administrative	0	%			
State Other	0	%			
		%			
TOTAL	100	%	TOTAL	100	%

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

Jury? 30 (approx.) Non-jury? 100's
Arbitration? 0 Administrative Bodies? 50 (approx.)

25. Within the last ten years, have you ever been formally reprimanded, sanctioned, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended or terminated by an employer or tribunal before which you have appeared? If so, please state the circumstances unde which such action was taken, the date(s) such action was taken, the name(s) of any persons who took such action, and the background and resolution of such action.

No

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

No

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

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

Although I have tried approximately 30 jury trials and numerous bench trials as a practicing attorney, for the last 11 years I have served as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer for 11 years. Therefore, I no longer have access to my trial files to fairly and fully answer this question.

- 27b. For your last 6 cases, which were settled in mediation or settled without mediation or trial, list the names and telephone numbers of trial counsel on all sides and court case numbers (include appellate cases).
  - In my private practice, I had many Dependency and Family Law cases to be resolved through the mediation process. However, as stated above, I have served as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer for the past 11 years. Therefore, I no longer have access to my files to fairly and fully answer this question.
- 27c. During the last five years, how frequently have you appeared at administrative hearings?

  As a Legal Aid attorney, I frequently appeared at administrative hearings at least once per month regarding the denial of public benefits such as social security, food stamps, AFDC, and unemployment compensation. Again, I have served as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer for the past 11 years. Therefore, I no longer have access to my files to fairly and fully answer this question.

  average times per month During the last five years, how frequently have you appeared in Court?
- 27d. During my career as an Assistant State Attorney and Assistant Public Defender, I was in Court on a daily basis. However, I have served as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer for the past 11 years. Therefore, I no longer have access to my files to fairly and fully answer this question.

  average times per month
- 27e. During the last five years, if your practice was substantially personal injury, what percentage of your work was in representation of plaintiffs? In my private practice, I handled personal injury cases involving automobile accidents and slip and fall cases. At that time, the majority of my personal injury practice was in representation of plaintiffs.

  However, I have served as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer for the past 11 years.

  Therefore, I no longer have access to my files to fairly and fully answer this question.

  Defendants?

  N/A

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

As an attorney, I appeared with greatest frequency in court as an Assistant State Attorney and Assistant Public Defender. During that period, I appeared in Court on a daily basis.

- 29. For the cases you have tried to award in arbitration, during each of the past five years, indicate whether you were sole, associate or chief counsel. Give citations of any reported cases.
  - N/A I have served as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer for the past 11 years.
- 30. List and describe the six most significant cases which you personally litigated giving case style, number and citation to reported decisions, if any. Identify your client and describe the nature of your participation in the case and the reason you believe it to be significant. Give the name of the court and judge, the date tried and names of other attorneys involved.
  - In private practice and as a government lawyer, I have tried numerous jury and bench trials. However, for the past 11 years I have served as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer. Therefore, I no longer have access to my trial files to fairly and fully answer this question..
- 31. Attach at least one example of legal writing which you personally wrote. If you have not personally written any legal documents recently, you may attach writing for which you had substantial responsibility. Please describe your degree of involvement in preparing the writing you attached.

See Attachments.

#### PRIOR JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE OR PUBLIC OFFICE:

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

No

32b. List any prior quasi-judicial service:

Dates Name of Agency Position Held

General Magistrate/

January 2003 -

Present Duval County Courts Hearing Officer

June 2008 -

Present Duval County Courts

Civil Traffic Hearing Officer

As a Magistrate, I hear cases involving Family Law, Divorces, Child Custody, Child Support, Modifications, Contempt,

Juvenile Dependency, Marchman Act and Baker Act Hearings, and Juvenile Delinquency Restitution Collections Court. As a Civil Traffic Hearing Officer, I hear matters related to civil traffic violations, i.e., speeding tickets, careless driving, expired tags,

Types of issues heard: etc...

8

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

Yes, I served on the Civil Service Board, City of Jacksonville, Florida from May 1999 through January 2003. I held the positions of Member and Chairman. I was appointed by the Duval County School Board. I served as Chairman of the Civil Service Board from May 2002 through January 2003. While serving on the Civil Service Board, I served as part of a panel that heard and determined appeals initiated by city employees who were charged with violations of the Charter personnel provisions of the City of Jacksonville and the civil service regulations authorized by ordinances or civil service rules. I heard and determined complaints by city employees and prospective employees concerning alleged violations of civil service rules or regulations with respect to hiring and promotion. I heard and determined the grievance of any person covered by the civil service rules or regulations of the consolidated government or the grievance of any person who may have been entitled to be covered by civil service rules and regulations pertaining to his/her employment or employment rights.

- 32d. If you have had prior judicial or quasi-judicial experience,
  - (i) List the names, phone numbers and addresses of six attorneys who appeared before you on matters of substance.

The following attorneys appear and/or have appeared before me on matters of substance:

A. Department of Children and Families/Children's Legal Services

921 N. Davis Street, Jacksonville, Fla. 32209

(904) 380-8955

Tricia Meisner, Esquire

W. Dekle Day, Esquire

Ann Hendricks, Esquire

Debbie Stafford, Esquire

Summer Boyd, Esquire

B. Office of Civil Regional Counsel
100 West Bay Street, Ste. 600
Jacksonville, Fl 32202
(904) 301-1112
Hilda Griffis, Esquire
Sarah Thomas, Esquire
Michael Kapperman, Esquire
Robert Keep, Esquire

C. Guardian ad Litem Program
Duval County Courthouse Annex
220 East Bay Streeet
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
(904) 255-8324
Christine Meyer, Esquire
Hillary Reeves, Esquire

D. Family Support Services/
In House Legal Counsel
4057 Carmichael Avenue, Suite 101
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
(904) 432-2721
Stacey West, Esquire

E. Office of State Attorney
220 East Bay Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32202
(904) 630-2440

Phillip Bavington, Esquire
Sierra Kornbluth, Esquire

F. Office of Public Defender 407 North Laura Street Jacksonville, Florida 32202 (904) 255-4673 Cynthia Cook Hunold, Esquire Stephanie Jaffe, Esquire

### G. Family Lawyers

Wade M. Rolle, Esquire 1054 Kings Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32207 (904) 766-7339

Elizabeth Ondriezek, Esquire 3829 Atlantic Boulevard Jacksonville, Florida 32207 (904) 396-3900

Dale Westling, Esquire 331 Union Street Jacksonville, Florida 32202 (904) 356-2341

Nina Price, Esquire 211 North Liberty Street, Suite 3 Jacksonville, Florida 32202 (904) 355-9533 Juanita Powell-Williams, Esquire Post Office Box 47504 Jacksonville, Florida 32247 (904) 647-7767

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

I have served for eleven years as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer, hearing approximately 80 cases per week. During my quasi-judicial career, I have handled thousands of cases/hearings. My primary areas of work are in Family Law matters and Juvenile Dependency cases in Duval, Nassau, and Clay Counties.

My Family Law experience includes hearing cases involving divorces, child support, equitable distribution of marital assets and/or liabilities, alimony, child custody, and contempt hearings.

I have also presided over cases related to Juvenile Dependency law. In that area, I decided matters involving judicial reviews, change of custody, child support, visitation issues, and any other issues that may arise in cases concerning the abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment of children.

Additionally, I have handled cases in our Juvenile Dependency Drug Court in which is provided intensive court supervision and treatment services for parents in drug recovery. For several years, I presided over our Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court in which is provided intensive court supervision and treatment services for drug addicted juvenile delinquents.

Further, I have presided over the dockets of the Domestic Violence Compliance, Adult Criminal Drug Court, Veterans Court, and Mental Health Courts. I also have heard Marchman Act and Baker Act cases. These cases involve making decisions as to whether someone is to be ordered into mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.

Moreover, my duties have included presiding over our Juvenile Delinquency Restitution Court, in which we enforce the collection of delinquent restitution payments. In 2008, I was called upon to add to my responsibilities the duty of serving as a Civil Traffic Hearing Officer in which I conduct first appearance hearings and bench trials in cases involving civil traffic violations. In all of these matters, I conduct evidentiary hearings in which I take sworn testimony, rule on objections, admit or deny evidence, and submit reports and recommendations to the Circuit Judge.

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

N/A

- (iv) List citations or styles and describe the five most significant cases you have tried or heard. Identify the parties, describe the cases and tell why you believe them to be significant. Give dates tried and names of attorneys involved.
  - 1. In re: C.P., F.M., and K.S., Case Number: 2007-DP-000376-CJA, B, & C. This is a Dependency case in which the heroin addicted Mother sought reunification with her children. After dedicated work on her Child Welfare Case Plan and extensive hearings, the Children have been safely reunited with their Mother. The Change of Custody hearing was held before me on June 28, 2011. The parties involved were the Mother; Lynn Salvatore, Attorney for Mother; DCF Family Services Counselor; Tim Tyler, Attorney for DCF; Guardian ad Litem (GAL); Natasha Moodie, Attorney for GAL; the Father; and Hilda Griffis, Attorney for the Father. I find this case to be significant because it demonstrates that with enough determination and help, parents can successfully defeat a life of chronic drug addiction and safely parent again. This case is somewhat typical of the Dependency cases that I have heard. It is indicative of the serious and traumatic nature of the matters that we hear as we strive to make decisions in the best interests of children.
  - 2. In re: L.Q., Case Number: 2008-DP-000408-CJA. This a Dependency case involving a formerly chronic runaway teen from foster care. The Child is 16 years old and now has a baby. The Mother of the teen has not reached a point where she can care for the Child. However, with intensive counseling and therapy, the teen is stabilizing. After numerous hearings and staffings, the baby is now placed in the same foster home as the teen mother, as of the last hearing on August 2, 2011. The Parties present included: the Child; DCF Family Service Counselor; Dekle Day, Attorney for DCF; Therapists; Foster Mother; Guardian ad Litem; and Natasha Moodie, Attorney for GAL. This case is significant because it shows that troubled teens can be saved sometimes from their own selfdestruction. It also represents again the tough decisions that the Court has to make in protecting Florida's children. The companion case to this matter is In re: C.Q., Case Number: 2010-DP-000411-CJA which I also heard. This case involves the teen Mother's baby. Teen Mother and baby were previously in separate foster homes mainly due to Teen Mother's instability. Teen Mother has been stabilized and baby has been placed in same foster home as his Teen Mother. The Father of the Child is actively involved in the baby's life. The Father is 19 years old. As a result of his relationship with the teen Mother, the Father is on sex offender probation. There have been many hearings in this case as all involved have worked diligently to get teen Mother stabilized. The hearing placing the child in the same foster home with the Minor Mother was held on August 2, 2011. The Parties present included: DCF Family Service Counselors; Dekle Day. Attorney for DCF; Therapists; Foster Mother for Minor Mother; Foster Parents for Child; Brian Cabrey, Attorney ad Litem for Child; the Father; Hilda Griffis, Attorney for Father; Minor Mother; K.C. Tusher, Attorney for Minor Mother; and Targetted Case Manager for Minor Mother. This case is significant as it demonstrates that with enough therapy, treatment, love, and commitment, we can safely place this

baby with her teen Mother. It also demonstrates the diverse and complex parts that the Court has to weigh in making safety decisions.

- 3. In re: T.N.K, Case Number: 2011-748-MH: This is a Baker Act case. This Patient is mentally ill and violent towards everyone, including the police. Patient acts out in a sexually inappropriate manner with hospital staff and relatives. One of the allegations as to Respondent was that he was sexually inappropriate towards his own mother. The Baker Act hearing was held at the Mental Health Center at Jacksonville. Patient was incapable of surviving on his own and there were no less restrictive alternative placements for him. I granted the Petition for Involuntary Placement at Northeast Florida State Hospital. The Baker Act hearing was held on Friday, July 1, 2011. The Parties present included: Patient; Michael Kapperman, Attorney for Patient; Phil Bavington, Assistant State Attorney; Psychiatrist; Mental Health Technicians; and a Nurse. This case is significant because it shows that the mentally ill have rights and those rights must be protected - no matter how awful the expressions of their illness. This case reflects that being the trier of facts is no easy matter and must be taken seriously. The cases that we hear are often representative of some of the worst aspects of human life. But we must remain impartial arbiters and give everyone a fair trial.
- 4. In re: G.W., Case Number: 2010-1812-MH. This is a Marchman Act case. Respondent was allegedly addicted to prescription pain pills. Respondent had recently tried to kill himself. After multiple attempts to order Respondent into drug treatment, Respondent was found in contempt and sentenced to 179 days in the Duval County Jail. He was to be early released upon successful completion of the Matrix Program (an in-jail drug treatment program). Shortly after being jailed, Respondent again attempted to kill himself by jumping from the second floor of the jail. Respondent survived the jump but was wheelchair bound for the rest of his jail term. Respondent was now ineligible for the Matrix Program because of his physical injuries and mental instability. His Mother who initiated the Marchman Act proceedings and his attorney requested Respondent be released early from jail. It was my recommendation that Respondent remain in jail for four months, the standard amount of time it takes to complete the Matrix Program, then be released from jail. We had multiple hearings in this case. The last was held on July 14, 2011 after which I agreed to an early release of Respondent. The Parties present included: Respondent; Michael Kapperman, Attorney for Respondent; Mother; Father; Sister; Therapist; and Matrix Program Representative. This case is significant because it demonstrates the difficulties in getting people ordered into drug treatment and the lengths to which some people are willing to go to resist treatment. Further, it shows difficult decisons that are made to protect our citizens from themselves, and the intricate and complex components that must be weighed in reaching a just decision.
- 5. A criminal case that I find noteworthy that I tried while in private practice is the case of State of Florida vs. John Scott, Case Number: 2000-28-CFA. I represented the Defendant John Scott who was charged with Child Abuse. Opposing counsel was Assistant State Attorney Jason Lazarus. The number at

the State Attorney's Office is (904) 630-2400. This felony criminal case was tried before a jury with Circuit Court Judge Lance Day presiding on or about November 17, 2000. The jury came back with a verdict of Not Guilty. This case is memorable to me because there was an undertone of race involved. The Defendant was a Black navy man and the child victim was White. The issue of race was addressed upfront with the jury panel in a calm and rational manner as not to inflame. The jury was able to set aside any racial biases or prejudices that they may have had and deliver a fair and just verdict. Like that jury, as judges, we must also rule fairly with sensitivity to diversity and the ability to set aside any biases or prejudices.

- (v) Has a complaint about you ever been made to the Judicial Qualifications Commission? If so, give date, describe complaint, whether or not there was a finding of probable cause, whether or not you have appeared before the Commission, and its resolution.
- (vi) Have you ever held an attorney in contempt? If so, for each instance state name of attorney, approximate date and circumstances.

No

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

No

### **BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT:**

33a. If you are now an officer, director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise, state the name of such enterprise, the nature of the business, the nature of your duties, and whether you intend to resign such position immediately upon your appointment or election to judicial office.

I am currently on the Board of Directors of Operation New Hope, Inc. Operation New Hope provides assistance and training to people recently released from incarceration in finding jobs and develops of affordable housing. I will resign from the Board upon appointment to judicial office.

I also serve on the Board of Directors of the Bob Hayes 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Invitational Track and Field Meet. The Bob Hayes Track Meet is the largest one-day track and field invitational held in the nation. It is managed by a non-profit organization whose goal is to provide young people the opportunity to excel as athletes and contributing members of society. The Meet will be held in March 2014 and that would then conclude my work with the organization.

33b. Since being admitted to the Bar, have you ever been engaged in any occupation,

business or profession other than the practice of law? If so, give details, including dates.

No

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

No

#### POSSIBLE BIAS OR PREJUDICE:

34. The Commission is interested in knowing if there are certain types of cases, groups of entities, or extended relationships or associations which would limit the cases for which you could sit as the presiding judge. Please list all types or classifications of cases or litigants for which you as a general proposition believe it would be difficult for you to sit as the presiding judge. Indicate the reason for each situation as to why you believe you might be in conflict. If you have prior judicial experience, describe the types of cases from which you have recused yourself.

No

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

35a.	Have you ever been convicte	d of a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?
	Yes NoX	If "Yes" what charges?
	Where convicted?	Date of Conviction:
35b.	Have you pled nolo contend degree misdemeanor?	dere or pled guilty to a crime which is a felony or a firs.
	Yes NoX	If "Yes" what charges?
	Where convicted?	Date of Conviction:
35c.	Have you ever had the adju- first degree misdemeanor?	dication of guilt withheld for a crime which is a felony or a
	Yes NoX	If "Yes" what charges?
	Where convicted?	Date of Conviction:
36a.	Have you ever been sued be date suit filed, court, case nu	by a client? If so, give particulars including name of client, mber and disposition.
	No	
36b.	Has any lawsuit to your know inaction on your part?	ledge been filed alleging malpractice as a result of action or
	No	
36c.		al liability insurance carrier ever settled a claim against you

	No
3 <b>7a</b> .	Have you ever filed a personal petition in bankruptcy or has a petition in bankruptcy been filed against you?
	No
37b.	Have you ever owned more than 25% of the issued and outstanding shares or acted as an officer or director of any corporation by which or against which a petition in bankruptcy has been filed? If so, give name of corporation, your relationship to it and date and caption of petition.
	No
38.	Have you ever been a party to a lawsuit either as a plaintiff or as a defendant? If so, please supply the jurisdiction/county in which the lawsuit was filed, style, case number, nature of the lawsuit, whether you were Plaintiff or Defendant and its disposition.
	No
39.	Has there ever been a finding of probable cause or other citation issued against you or are you presently under investigation for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, or other professional group. If so, give the particulars.
	No
40.	To your knowledge within the last ten years, have any of your current or former co-workers, subordinates, supervisors, customers or clients ever filed a formal complaint or formal accusation of misconduct against you with any regulatory or investigatory agency, or with your employer? If so, please state the date(s) of such formal complaint or formal accusation(s), the specific formal complaint or formal accusation(s) made, and the background and resolution of such action(s). (Any complaint filed with JQC, refer to 32d(v).
	No
41.	Are you currently the subject of an investigation which could result in civil, administrative or criminal action against you? If yes, please state the nature of the investigation, the agency conducting the investigation and the expected completion date of the investigation.
	No
42.	In the past ten years, have you been subject to or threatened with eviction proceedings? If yes, please explain.
	No
43a.	Have you filed all past tax returns as required by federal, state, local and other government authorities?

If yes, please explain what and why. <u>Underestimated</u>

If no, please explain.

Yes 🛛

Yes 🛛

No

43b. Have you ever paid a tax penalty?

No

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

#### HONORS AND PUBLICATIONS:

- If you have published any books or articles, list them, giving citations and dates.
   N/A
- 45. List any honors, prizes or awards you have received. Give dates.
  - 1992 Award of Excellence Florida's First Coast Y.M.C.A. Black Achievers Program Mentor Award
  - 1995 Volunteer Recognition by Florida First Coast YMCA
  - 1995 96 Certificate of Appreciation for devoted and invaluable services to the Florida's First Coast YMCA Black Achievers Program
  - 1995 Certificate of Appreciation for devoted and invaluable services to D.W. Perkins Bar Association
  - 1995 Service Award from the D.W. Perkins Bar Association recognizing and saluting outstanding and dedicated service as Secretary of D.W. Perkins Bar Association
  - 1996 Recognition for Support and Contribution to the YMCA's Black Achiever Program
  - 1996 Certificate of Appreciation from D.W. Perkins Bar Association
  - 1996 Community Service Award from D.W. Perkins Bar Association for outstanding work with youth in the community
  - 1999 Appreciation by D.W. Perkins Bar Association
  - 2000 Appreciation by D.W. Perkins Bar Association
  - 2003 Recognition by Civil Service Board for outstanding service as Member of the Civil Service Board from May 1999 through January 2003
  - 2003 Recognition by Civil Service Board for service as Chairman
  - 2004 Appreciation for service as Mohawk District Commissioner/Boy Scouts of America
  - 2005 Appreciation of Coach Lester Bass for dedicated service to Bethel Soccer
  - May 2005 Statewide Guardian ad Litem Program Fourth Judicial Circuit Certificate of Appreciation
  - 2005 District Award of Merit presented by Boy Scouts of America
  - May 17, 2006 Statewide Drug Court Graduation with Chief Justice Barbara Pariente and Governor Jeb Bush
  - 2007 Recognized for work with the Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court Program

2007 Mohawk District Appreciation for service as Chairman of Mohawk District

2007 - 2008 Supreme Court Task Force on Treatment Based Drug Courts

2009 Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2009

2011 Recognized for work as Coach of the Bethel Braves Instructional Baseball Team

2011 Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Program Fourth Judicial Circuit Award

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

2004, August: Dependency Drug Court Mentor Site

2005, March 17: Dependency Drug Court Mentor Site

2006, February 22: Dependency Drug Court Mentor Site

2006, March 13: Spoke with Professor Cynthia Irvin's Juvenile Law Clinic Class at the Florida Coastal School of Law about the role of General Magistrates in the Juvenile Dependency System

2006, April 27: Appearing Before the Magistrates - Presentation before Family Law Inn of Court

2006, May 17: Statewide Drug Court Graduation with Governor Jeb Bush and Chief Justice Barbara Pariente

2006, October 4: Lectured Juvenile Legal Clinic at Florida Coastal School of Law on the role of the General Magistrate in the Juvenile Dependency System

2007, April 12: Unified Family Court Update - Presentation before Florida Family Law Inn of Court.

2008, February 21: Highlights in the Dependency and Delinquency Practice: Beyond Just Unified Family Court - Presentation before Florida Family Law Inn of Court

2008, November 23: Guest Speaker at New Bethlehem Baptist Church for Youth Service

	2010, October: Guest speaker for "Say No To Drugs" Campaign - Susie Tolbert Gifted and Academically Talented Elementary School
	2009: Boys to Men Symposium - "How to Become a Lawyer"
	2010, February 27: National TRIO/Upward Bound Day Guest Speaker
	2011, March: Presided over R.V. Daniels Gifted and Academically Talented Elementary School Mock Elections
	2011, March: Guest Speaker at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church for Youth Empowerment Day
	2011, June: Guest Speaker for Northwestern Middle School Young African American Club Graduation
	2013, April 1: Guest lecturer for the University of North Florida Class of Dr. Vicky Waytowich in which I lectured on the Juvenile Justice and Dependency Systems
	Over the years I have spoken with numerous elementary, middle, and high schools encouraging young people to stay in school.
47.	Do you have a Martindale-Hubbell rating? Yes ☐ If so, what is it?No ☐
PROF	ESSIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:
48a.	List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any office which you may have held in such groups and committees to which you belonged.
	Association of General Magistrates and Hearing Officers, Member
	Jacksonville Bar Association, Member
	Florida Family Law American Inn of Court, Master
	D.W. Perkins Bar Association, Member
	Florida Association of Drug Cout Professionals, Member
	National Association of Drug Court Professional, Member

48b. List, in a fully identifiable fashion, all organizations, other than those identified in response to question No. 48(a), of which you have been a member since graduating from law school, including the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in each such organization.

Supreme Court Task Force on Treatment-Based Drug Courts, Member Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, Deacon
Northeast Florida Sickle Cell Association, Board of Directors
Northeast Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Member
Boy Scouts of America, Mohawk District Commisioner, Vice Chariman
Leadership Jacksonville, Class of 2009
Jacksonville Community Council, Inc.
Boy Scouts of America, Troop 179, Assistant Scoutmaster

48c. List your hobbies or other vocational interests.

My hobbies include Reading, Weightlifting, Bike Riding, Boxing, Soccer, Baseball, and Camping. My undergraduate studies focused on history and political science. I still have a deep love for the study of history and politics. Another area of special interest and fascination to me is Space Exploration.

48d. Do you now or have you ever belonged to any club or organization that in practice or policy restricts (or restricted during the time of your membership) its membership on the basis of race, religion, national origin or sex? If so, detail the name and nature of the club(s) or organization(s), relevant policies and practices and whether you intend to continue as a member if you are selected to serve on the bench.

No

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

Having served as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer for the past eleven years, I have had only very limited opportunities to perform actual pro bono legal work. However, it has not stopped me from being engaged in the community. I am a member of Leadership Jacksonville (LJ), Class of 2009. Being a part of LJ has opened up numerous opportunies to serve and engage with the community. I have fondly worked with Youth Leadership Jacksonville teaching youth about the pathway of legal careers and the operations of our judicial system. I worked for many years with the Mohawk District Scouting Program which brought scouting to youth in low-income housing projects. Today, I serve as Assistant Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 179 with my church Bethel Baptist Institutional Church. My work with my church as member and deacon are richly rewarding opportunities to give back to the community. In past summers, I was able to serve as a coach for our soccer and instructional baseball teams.

My children attend public schools. At my daughter's school, I was very instrumental in establishing the DADS at Daniels program in which we increased the participation and presence of Dads in the school and classrooms through service projects around the campus.

I also serve on the Board of Directors of the non-profit corporation, Operation New Hope. This organization works to rebuild the lives of recently released persons reentering the community by assisting them with job training and placement. We also provide low-income housing ownership opportunities. Recently, I joined the Board of Directors of the Bob Hayes 50<sup>th</sup> Aniversary Invitational Track and Field Meet which helps young people develop athletically, academically, socially, and morally. These are a few meaningful and impactful ways that I have been able to give back to the community even with the restrictions of being a Magistrate.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

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

Yes, I have attended many continuing legal education programs during the past five years in the following substantive areas:

2009, February 2 -3: The 19th Annual Festival of Legal Learning, Presented by Office of Continuing Legal Education, University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill, North Carolina

2009, February 25: Supreme Court Diversity Training Presented by Jacksonville Bar Association

2009, April 2: Looking to the Future: Legal and Policy Options for Racially Integrated Education in the South and the Nation, Presented by the University of North Carolina School of Law/Center for Civil Rights

2009: Pro Bono You Can Handle: Pro Bono Attorneys Representing Children Training

2009, June 2 - 3: The 2009 Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies: General Magistrates' and Hearing Officers' Program: The Fundamentals and Beyond, Presented by the Office of State Courts Administrator

2009, June 10 - 12: National Association of Drug Court Professionals Training in Anaheim, California

2009, August: Dependency Summit in Orlando, Florida

2009, September 10: Effective Communication With Self-Represented Litigants, Presented by the National Judicial College

2009, September 17: Criminal Law Update, Sponsored by Office of State Courts Administrator

2009, October 8: Raising the Bar

2009, October 13: Ethics in the Everyday Court presented by the National Judicial College

2009, October: Drug Court Training presented by Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals

2010, June 2 - 5: National Association of Drug Court Professionals Training, Boston, Mass.

2010, August: Dependency Summit in Orlando, Florida

2010, November 1 -2: The Unfinished Work: Advancing New Strategies in the Struggle for Civil Rights, University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill, N.C.

2010: Drug Court Training presented by Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals in St. Augustine, Florida

2011, January 24 - 26: Dependency Model Courts Training, St. Petersburg, Florida

2011, July 17 - 20: National Association of Drug Court Professionals Training, Washington, D.C.

2012, September 20: It's About Time: Sue annd Ned's Excellent Adventure: e-filing, e-service, courthouse technology and more by Florida Family Law Inn of Court

2013, January 25 -26: Marital and Family Law Review Course, Orlando, Florida. by the Family Law Section of the Florida Bar and the AAML, Florida Chapter

2013, September 19: Preserving the Record for Appeal by the Florida Family Law Innof Court

2014, January 9: What should you do?: The Perils of Professionalism by Florida Family Law Inn of Court, Jacksonville, Florida.

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

Yes, I have lectured at bar association conferences, law school forums, and/or continuing legal education programs in the following substantive areas:

2006, March 13: Lectured at Florida Coastal School of Law - Role of General Magistrates in the Juvenile Dependency System

2006, April 27: Appearing Before Magistrates - Presentation before Family Law Inn of Court

2006, October 4: Lectured Juvenile Legal Clinic at Florida Coastal School of Law on the role of the General Magistrate in the Juvenile Dependency System

2007, April 12: Unified Family Court Update - Presentation before Florida Family Law Inn of Court.

2008, February 21: Highlights in the Dependency and Delinquency Practice: Beyond Just Unified Family Court - presentation before Florida Family Law Inn of Court

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

As a young man, I became very passionate about the study and practice of law. Inspired by the great lawyers that I saw growing up in Durham, North Carolina, law

became my chosen career path. After graduating from Duke University and studying law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I began my lifelong commitment to public service through the practice of law. My first legal job was as a Martin Luther King, Jr., Legal Intern with Pamlico Sound Legal Services in Greenville, N.C. in 1987. At Legal Services, I worked providing free legal services for low-income persons in both circuit and county courts. As an intern, I worked on such projects as helping to start a tenant's association at a local trailer park, social security and food stamp administrative hearings, evictions, and family law matters. That summer with Legal Services let me know how I wanted to spend my legal career in public service. I did not make a lot of money, but I enjoyed working with and for the people.

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc.: My first job after law school was with Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. That was the job that brought me to Florida in 1988. I spent four years at Legal Aid providing free legal services for low income clients in civil matters. I handled cases involving evictions; unemployment compensation; public benefits administrative hearings; consumer and small claims cases; Community Reinvestment Act issues; forming tenants associations at Cleveland Arms Apartments and the Liberty Center; divorces; child custody; and child support. At one point, I served as chair of our Housing/Consumer Unit. I gained invaluable knowledge and experience during my four years at Legal Aid. I developed a true understanding of the need of people in poverty to to not only be heard, but to be respected.

Office of the State Attorney/4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit: I left Legal Aid in 1992 and became an Assistant State Attorney. I vigorously prosecuted misdemeanor, felony, and juvenile delinquency cases. I gained invaluable prosecutorial jury trial experience. I also tried countless juvenile delinquency cases. My prosecutorial experience helped build my comfort level in the courtroom and refined my ability to handle large dockets in a timely and efficient manner. It also enhanced my appreciation for the rights of victims of crime.

Bivens, Jones and Associates: In 1994, I joined the firm of Bivens, Jones and Associates. It was a small firm of six lawyers. My areas of practice included: Juvenile Dependency, Juvenile Delinquency, felony and misdemeanor criminal defense, bankruptcy, family law, and personal injury. While at the firm, I had several felony jury trials and a multitude of bench trials.

Office of the Public Defender/13th Judicial Circuit: In 1996,

I took a job

at the Public Defender's Office as an assistant public defender. Julianne Holt was the Public Defender. I defended indigent clients in felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile delinquency cases. Again, I gained extensive criminal defense jury trial experience in both felony and misdemeanor cases. I tried over 10 jury trials to verdict. While in the juvenile division, I tried over 50 bench trials.

Lester Bernard Bass, Attorney at Law: We spent two years in Tampa. After our return to Jacksonville, I returned to the law firm of Bivens, Jones and Associates. Then in July of 2001, an opportunity arose for me to open my own law practice. I shared space with Attorney Guy Victor Murray. The bulk of my practice was as a contract attorney representing Parents in Juvenile Dependency cases. I tried at least 100 bench trials in Dependency. I also practiced in the areas of felony and misdemeanor criminal defense, Juvenile Delinquency, small claims actions, family law, evictions, and personal injury. I had several felony jury trials while in private practice.

General Magistrate/Hearing Officer: In my 25 years of legal experience and training, I have found my greatest joy and satisfaction serving as a General Magistrate/Hearing Officer. I began working as a General Magistrate on January 13, 2003. I have held this position for eleven years. I currently work in the area of Family Law in Duval and Clay Counties where I preside over cases involving divorces, child custody, child support, alimony, equitable distribution of marital assets and/or liabilities, modifications, contempts, temporary needs, and much more. Before transitioning to Family Law, I worked in the area of Juvenile Dependency. I heard cases involving Parents who had abused, abandoned, and/or neglected their children. I have covered Dependency hearings in Duval, Nassau, and Clay Counties. Some of the work that I am most proud of has been the development and implementation of our Dependency Drug Court in which we give drug addicted Parents intensive court supervision and treatment to help them beat their drug addictions and put their families back together. Our Drug Court has been nationally recognized and it has served as a mentor and training site for other courts from around the country. Another proud accomplishment has been initiating the development of our Independent Living Court under Judges Henry Davis and Jim Daniel's guidance. In Independent Living Court, we transition and prepare youth aging out of foster care for adulthood. As Magistrate, I also handle cases under the Marchman and Baker Acts making decisions about whether persons should be civilly committed for mental health and substance abuse treatment. In these areas, I have had 100's of contested evidentiary hearings. I also conducted Juvenile Delinquency Restitution Collection Court in which we collect restitution and court costs from defaulting Parents and Juvenile Delinguents. I have also had the honor of presiding at various times over our Adult Criminal Drug Court, Veterans Court, Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court, and Clay County Drug Court. I have extensive training, knowledge and experience in the handling of court matters. I am very comfortable in the courtroom. My work as a Magistrate has taught me the importance of being fair and impartial to the represented and unrepresented regardless of gender, race, religious or socio-economic status.

Civil Traffic Hearing Officer: In 2008, I was given the opportunity to begin serving as a Civil Traffic Hearing Officer. I hear cases involving County Court civil traffic violations. I conduct first appearances and bench trials. Thus far, I have conducted trials in over 50 traffic violations cases.

Building on my 25 years of legal experience, my continued desire to serve the community, my vast and diverse legal and quasi-judicial experience, my knowledge of all

of the Counties in the Circuit, coupled with my legal knowledge and wisdom, are the things that distinguish me as an excellent candidate for Circuit Judge.

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

The Circuit Court has jurisdiction over all juvenile, family and probate proceedings. felony criminal cases, and civil cases involving disputes of over \$15,000. The particular potential contribution that I believe my selection would bring to the position of Circuit Judge is that of a person well trained to handle the vast array of issues that arise in the Circuit courtroom. I have experience in dealing with cases in most of the areas on the Circuit level. My judicial temperament and demeanor have been honed by my eleven years of intense work on the Magsitrate's bench. As an employee, I would describe myself as hardworking, ethical, and diligent. Over the past eleven years, I have demonstrated my ability to effectively and timely handle large dockets. My diverse background of having legal experience with government agencies, small firms, and a solo-practice, gives me the insight and appreciation of being a fair and impartial judge. The extensive quasi-judicial experience and training that I bring to the table would make me a very competent and capable judge who follows the law. My involvement in our various Drug Courts has taught me to look with compassion beyond the problem immediately before the court to find more permanent solutions. I view myself as wellprepared and ready to take the bench today.

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

Yes, I submitted an application to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission in August 2011.

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

After 11 years of serving as a General Magistrate, I am ready to make the transition to the Circuit bench. The work that I have done as a Magistrate has all been done in areas of law that fall under the Circuit Court's jurisdiction. My personal experiences integrity, legal training, vast quasi-judicial experience, comitment to public service, and judicial temperament, all make me an excellent choice for Circuit Judge. My family and community helped instill in me the simple values of strong work ethic, integrity, fairness, honesty, and truthfulness. I was the first in my family to attend law school. My deep commitment to family, faith, and respect for the rule of law are part of my core values. My unwavering belief in equal justice under the law will be my guiding light in my decisionmaking. Moreover, I am the total package, I actually have experience presiding over contested cases on the circuit level, as well as comprehensive legal experience in juvenile, family, civil and felony law.

### **REFERENCES:**

List the names, addresses and telephone numbers of ten persons who are in a position 54. to comment on your qualifications for judicial position and of whom inquiry may be made by the Commission. 1. Honorable Donald R. Moran 2. Honorable Brian J. Davis 3. Honorable Robert M. Foster 4. Honorable Henry Davis

6. Honorable Franklin Akel
7. Joseph Stelma
8. James Gardner

9. Donald B. Freeman, Esq.	
10. Guy Victor Murray, Esq.	

#### 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(I), 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 30 <sup>th</sup> day of January	, 20 <u>14</u> .		
Printed Name	Signature		

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

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#### FINANCIAL HISTORY

In lieu of answering the questions on this page, you may attach copies of your completed Federal Income Tax Returns for the preceding three (3) years. Those income tax returns should include returns from a professional association. If you answer the questions on this page, you do not have to file copies of your tax returns.

 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.

January 2011 - December 2011: General Magistrate/Hearing Officer

Gross salary: \$86,268.36

January 2012 - December 2012: General Magsitrate/Hearing Officer

Gross salary: \$86,268.36

January 2014 - December 2014: General Magsitrate/Hearing Officer

Gross salary: \$86,518.35

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.

January 2011 - December 2011: General Magistrate/Hearing Officer

Net income: \$68,961.40

January 2012 - December 2012: General Magistrate/Hearing Officer

Net income: \$67,529.06

January 2013 - December 2013: General Magistrate/Hearing Officer

Net income: \$66,067.19

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.

N/A

4. State the amount of net income you have earned or losses incurred (after deducting expenses) from 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.

N/A

#### 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: January 30, 20	)14			
JNC Submitting To:	Fourth Judicial Circuit			
Name (please print):	Lester Bernard Bass			
, ,				
Current Occupation:	General Magsitrate/Hearing Office	<u>ər</u>		
Telephone Number:	(904) 255- <u>1175</u> Attorney	No.: 0797243		
Gender (check one):				
Ethnic Origin (check one):  White, non Hispanic				
	☐ Hispanic			
	⊠ Black			
	American Indian/Alaskar	า Native		
	Asian/Pacific Islander			
County of Residence:	Duval			

#### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

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

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

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

Printed Name of Applicant:	Lester Bernard Bass
Signature of Applicant:	
Date: _Janury 30, 2014	

## Question 20

Court or Administrative Body Date of Admission

United States District Court, Middle District of Florida February 1990

United States Court of Appeals for Eleventh Circuit February 1991

## Question 21

Position	Name of Firm	Address	Dates
Assistant Public Defender	Office of Public Defender	700 E. Twiggs St., #5 Tampa, Fla. 33602	Dec. 1996 - Dec. 1998
Associate Attorney	Bivens, Jones and Associates	1543 Kingsley Ave. Orange Park, Fla. 32073	Jan. 1999 - June 2001
Solo Practitioner	Lester Bernard Bass Attorney at Law	118 W. Adams St., Ste. 320 Jacksonville, Fl. 32202	July 2001 – Jan. 2003
General Magistrate/ Hearing Officer	Duval County Courts	330 East Bay St. Jacksonville, Fl. 32202	Jan. 2003 – Present