

**APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE FOURTH JUDICIAL COURT**  
(Please attach additional pages as needed to respond fully to questions.)

**DATE: January 29, 2014**

Florida Bar No.: **0186848**

E-mail: **rhonda@justicerpw.com**

Social Security No.: 

1. Name: **Rhonda Denise Peoples-Waters**

Date Admitted to Practice in Florida: **September 21, 1999**

Date Admitted to Practice in other States: **None Applicable**

2. State current employer and title, including professional position and any public or judicial office. **Rhonda Peoples-Waters, P.A.- President/Owner**

3. Business address: **625 West Union Street, Suite 2**

City: **Jacksonville** County: **Duval** State: **FL** ZIP: **32202**

Telephone: **904-377-2109/904-355-6006** FAX: **904-355-6006**

4. Residential address: 

City 

Since: **December 27, 2007** Telephone: 

5. Place of birth: **Great Lakes, Illinois** Date of birth: 

6a. Length of residence in State of Florida: **18 years**

6b. Are you a registered voter?  **Yes**  **No**

If so, in what county are you registered? **Duval**

7. Marital status: **Divorced**

If married: Spouse's name Date of marriage Spouse's occupation

If ever divorced give for each marriage name(s) of spouse(s), current address for each former spouse, date and place of divorce, court and case number for each divorce.



8.

Children Name(s)	Age(s)	Occupation(s)	Residential Address
[Redacted]			

9. **Military Service (including Reserves): Not Applicable**

Service \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Highest Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank at time of Discharge \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Discharge \_\_\_\_\_  
Awards or citations \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH:**

10.



11a.



11b.



12a.

12b.

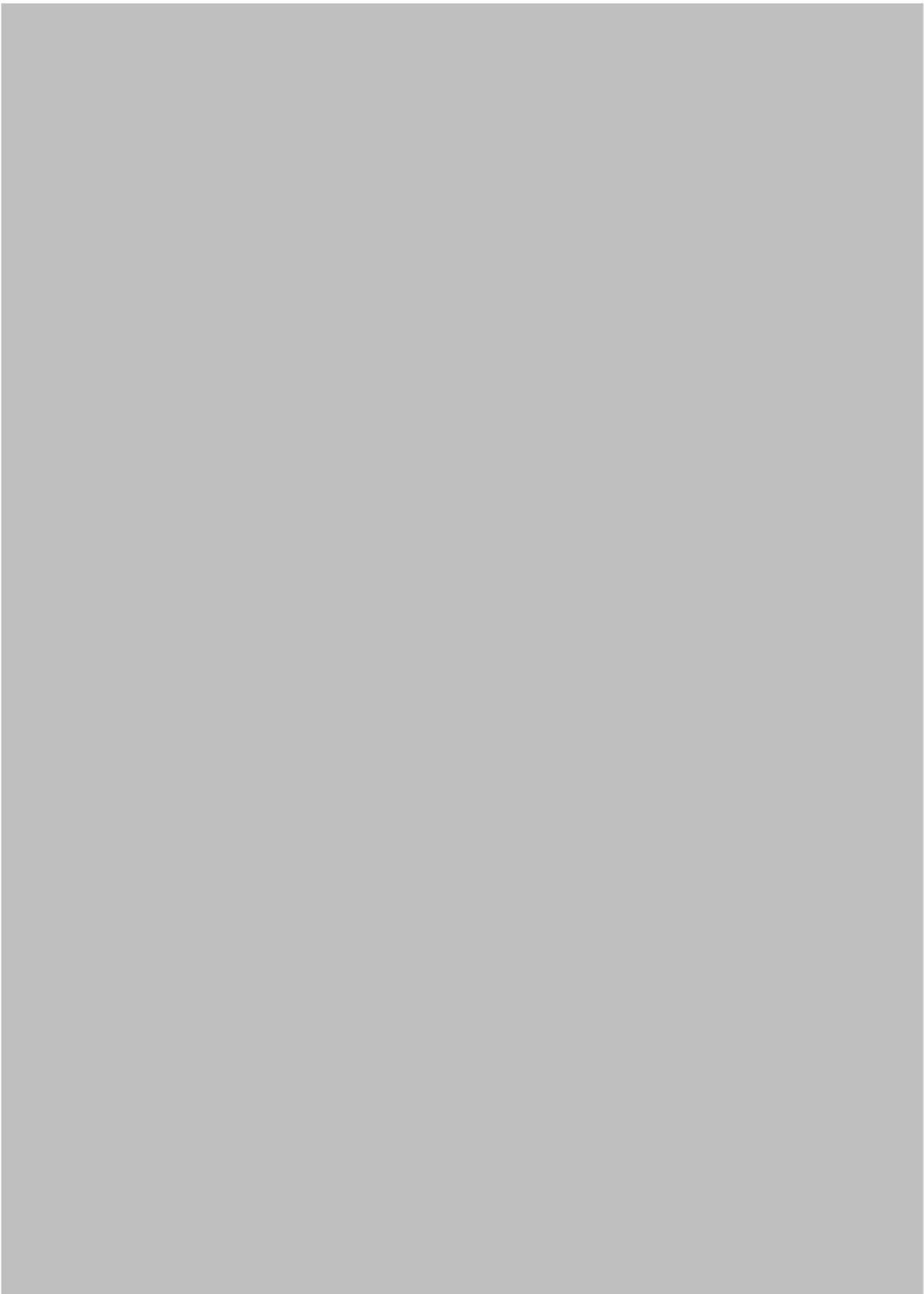
13.

14.

15.

16.

17.



**EDUCATION:**

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

Schools	Class Standing	Dates of Attendance	Degree
Selma High School	19 of 229	1988-1992	High School Diploma
Wallace Community College	Not Applicable	1990-1992	Not Applicable
Fisk University	Top-Cum Laude	1992-1996	Bachelor of Science
Vanderbilt University	Not Applicable	Approximately 1994-1995	Not Applicable
University of Florida	Unavailable	1996-1999	Juris Doctor

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

High School	Undergraduate	Law School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3.784 GPA</li> <li>- Advanced Diploma (AP classes and dual enrollment at Wallace Community College)</li> <li>- National Honor Society Student Government President</li> <li>- Honor Roll</li> <li>- Girl of the Year Nominee</li> <li>- Hardee's Restaurant Scholarship (I worked at Hardee's throughout high school.)</li> <li>- Acceptance and offers of academic scholarship to various colleges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cum laude, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with concentration in Financial Economics.</li> <li>- Fisk University Academic Scholarship (4 years)</li> <li>- Alpha Kappa Alpha Community Service Sorority</li> <li>- Cross-campus study at Vanderbilt University</li> <li>- Acceptance and offers of academic scholarship to various law schools including Emory University and Wake Forest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Virgil Hawkins Legal Fellowship</li> <li>- UMOJA Law Journal, Editor</li> <li>- Pro Bono Award- Tax Assistance Program</li> <li>- Criminal Law Clinic</li> <li>- Certified Legal Intern</li> <li>- Student Member, Chester Bedell Inn of Court</li> </ul>

**NON-LEGAL EMPLOYMENT:**

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

Date	Position	Employer	Address
<b>None Applicable</b>			

**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
<b>Florida Bar</b>	<b>09/21/1999</b>
<b>Middle District Florida</b>	<b>09/27/2001</b>

- 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 Employer	Address	Dates
<b>Law Clerk</b>	<b>Tennessee Attorney General's Office</b>	<b>P.O. Box 20207 Nashville, TN 37202</b>	<b>Summer 1997</b>
<b>Legal Intern</b>	<b>Florida Department of Transportation</b>	<b>1109 S. Marion Ave. Lake City, FL 32025</b>	<b>Approximately Spring 1998</b>
<b>Campaign Manager</b>	<b>Candidate for Alabama House of Representatives (Ronald Peoples)</b>	<b>317 Woodrow Ave. Selma, AL 36701</b>	<b>Summer 1998</b>
<b>Law Clerk</b>	<b>Chestnut Sanders, Sanders &amp; Pettaway</b>	<b>One Union Street Selma, AL 36701</b>	<b>Summer 1998</b>
<b>Certified Legal Intern</b>	<b>Public Defender's Office</b>	<b>105 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Gainesville, FL 32601</b>	<b>Spring 1999</b>
<b>Assistant Public Defender</b>	<b>Public Defender's Office</b>	<b>407 N. Laura Street Jacksonville, FL 32202</b>	<b>09/1999 - 02/2007</b>
<b>Adjunct Professor</b>	<b>Florida Community College</b>	<b>9911 Old Baymeadows Road Jacksonville, FL 32202</b>	<b>01/2001 - 08/2005</b>

Associate	Law Office of Craig Gibbs	1200 Riverplace Blvd., Suite 810 Jacksonville, FL 32207	02/2007 - 03/2008
JDAI Coordinator	Department of Juvenile Justice	2055 Reyko Road Bldg. 4700, 2nd Floor Jacksonville, FL 32207	04/2010 - 04/2011
President/ Owner - Attorney	Rhonda Peoples-Waters, P.A.	625 W. Union St., Ste.2 Jacksonville, FL 32202	03/2008 - Present

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

The law firm of Rhonda Peoples-Waters, P.A. primarily concentrates in criminal law and personal injury. The types of cases that I currently practice or have previously litigated include charges such as theft, DUI, domestic battery, resisting with violence, sexual battery (rape), child molestation, armed robbery, sale of cocaine, first-degree murder, manslaughter, and numerous other charges. I represent persons who personally retain me or are court-appointed. I have a wide range of clientele, which include people of all ages, educational backgrounds and socio-economic status. However, I have attached some letters throughout this application which exhibit that many clients, in the face of severe consequences, truly appreciated the time and effort I put into their case.

It is also important to emphasize that I concluded my career at the Public Defender's Office, after serving as the Division Chief of both of the Repeat Offender Divisions in Duval County. In those positions, I was responsible for case assignment, overseeing and supervising other attorneys. As well, I tried their cases with them; while also handling the more serious cases as my caseload. I am certain that I have handled thousands of various criminal matters over my career.

Additionally, my practice areas include personal injury cases such as motor vehicle accidents and slip and fall cases. There are also times where I negotiate general civil matters and represent persons in domestic violence injunction hearings. I frequently handle family law (divorce, child support and child custody) and probate matters. Moreover, I have handled civil litigation matters including pre-trial motion practice, depositions and mediations. Many of my civil clients are just unaware of how the insurance process works and are seeking assistance to deal with adjusters and medical assistance. Most are pleased to have the process simplified and turned over to someone that they trust.

23. What percentage of your appearance in courts in the last five years or last five years of practice (include the dates) was in:

2009-2014			
Court		Area of Practice	
<b>Federal Appellate</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>Civil</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Federal Trial</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>Criminal</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Federal Other</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>State Appellate</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>Probate</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>State Trial</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>State Administrative</b>	<b>1%</b>		
<b>State Other</b>	<b>1%</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Jury	Non-Jury	Arbitration	Administrative Bodies
<b>45 or more</b>	<b>18 or more</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

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

Yes  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.

Yes  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).

**1. State of Florida v. Shireeka Wilson Case Number 162011CF012086AXXMA**  
- December 2013 Stand Your Ground Hearing – Awaiting Dismissal Ruling from the Court regarding aggravated battery charges.

- Judge Virginia Norton

• **State Attorney:**  
Katie Deal, Esquire  
220 E. Bay Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216  
904-630-2482

**2. State of Florida v. Bruce Middleton Case Number 162010CF010789AXXMA**  
- August 2012 Jury trial - Guilty of one count of lewd or lascivious molestation.

- Judge Tyrie Boyer

• **State Attorney:**  
Anna Hixon, Esquire  
220 E. Bay Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216  
904-630-2486

**3. State of Florida v. Devonta Mayberry Case Number 162009CF011894AXXMA**  
-March 2011 Jury trial –Guilty of lesser on count one and guilty as charged on count two felony murder.

- Judge Russell Healey

• **State Attorneys:**  
Bernardo de la Rionda, Esquire  
220 E. Bay Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216  
904-630-7100

Nickolas Lake, Esquire  
Law Office of Amy Warpinski  
1301 Riverplace Blvd Ste. 620  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207  
904-346-5422

• **Defense Counsels:**  
Sissy Adams-Jones, Esquire  
525 N. Newnan Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
904-633-9949

Anthony Blackburn, Esquire  
4812 San Juan Avenue  
Jacksonville, Florida 32210  
904-887-0013



**Michael Bossen, Esquire  
1639 Emerson Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207  
904-396-3242**

**4. State of Florida v. James Smart Case Number 162008CF014140AXXMA  
- November 2010 Jury trial – Guilty on all counts (including attempted murder of a  
police officer).**

**- Judge Russell Healey**

**• State Attorneys:  
Jessica Klingensmith, Esquire  
220 East Bay Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216  
904-630-2482**

**Christen Luikart, Esquire  
Murphy & Anderson, P.A.  
1501 San Marco Blvd  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207  
904-598-9282**

**• Defense Counsel:  
Amanda Kuhn, Esquire  
100 West Bay Street, Suite 600  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
904-301-1112**

**5. State of Florida v. Timothy Summers Case Number 162009CF008729AXXMA  
- June 2010 Jury trial – Not Guilty - possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.**

**- Judge Mark Mahon**

**• State Attorneys:  
Justin Stevens, Esquire  
Epstein & Robbins  
233 East Bay Street Ste. 1125  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
904-354-5645**

**Brittany Mauerberger, Esquire  
220 East Bay Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216  
904-630-2510**

**• Defense Counsel:  
Kate Hatfield, Esquire  
The Consumer Law Firm  
8011 Merrill Road Ste. 21  
Jacksonville, Florida 32277  
904-446-9990**

**6. State of Florida v. Jermaine Reed Case Number 162008CF14557BXXXMA**  
**- May 2010 Jury trial – Guilty as charged on two counts (armed robbery) and Not Guilty on one count (armed robbery)**

**- Judge Lawrence Haddock**

• **State Attorney:**  
**Jessica Klingensmith, Esquire**  
**220 East Bay Street**  
**Jacksonville, Florida 32202**  
**904-630-2482**

• **Defense Counsel:**  
**No additional defense counsel.**

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).

- **State of Florida vs. Turquais Noble**  
**Case No. 162013CF6543AXXMA, 162013CF006660AXXMA,**  
**162013CF006542AXXMA and 162013CF006914AXXXMA**  
**Counsel: Hector Bustos 904-630-2486**
- **State of Florida vs. Shantell Serrant**  
**Case No. 162013CF005168AXXXMA**  
**Counsel: Brittany O'Neil 904-630-2486**
- **State of Florida vs. Harry Soulis**  
**Case No. 162013CF004493AXXXMA**  
**Counsel: Doug Dorsey 904-630-2484**
- **Alicia Young vs. Robert Young**  
**Case No. 162011DR011786FMXXMA**  
**Counsel: Gerald Wilkerson 904-384-8200**
- **Estate of Justin Davis**  
**Case No. 162012CP001844XXXXMA**  
**Counsels: Raymond Reid 904-358-8881**  
**Thomas Donahoo, Jr. 904-354-8080**
- **State of Florida vs. Freddie Freytes**  
**Case No. 162013CF001923AXXXMA**  
**Counsel: Joe Licandro 904-630-2482**

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

**I appear at administrative hearings on average once every four months.**

- 27d. During the last five years, how frequently have you appeared in Court?  
average times per month

**I appear in Court on average fifty 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? % Defendants? %

**Plaintiffs 100%**

**Defendants 0%**

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.

**None Applicable**

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.

**None Applicable**

30. List and describe the six most significant cases which you personally litigated giving case style, number and citation to reported decisions, if any. Identify your client and describe the nature of your participation in the case and the reason you believe it to be significant. Give the name of the court and judge, the date tried and names of other attorneys involved.

**1. STATE OF FLORIDA vs. CHARLES SOUTHERN**

**Case Number 16 2010CF001745AXXMA**

**Judge: Honorable Elizabeth Senterfitt- Circuit Court**

**Date of Sentencing: 10/1/2010**

**Counsel: Assistant State Attorney Mark Kalil**

**My Role: Sole Counsel**

**Additional Counsel: Michele Kalil (co-defendant)**

**This case is certainly of great significance. My client, Mr. Southern was charged with the shooting death of his fellow University Christian classmate. Incongruously, Mr. Southern's background did not fit the description of my typical client. He attended a private school and was involved in school sports. This senseless act shocked the entire community.**

**This case represented to me the importance of truth regardless of the cost. My client cooperated and gave several interviews to the State. We hired experts and dedicated immense time to the preparation of this case.**

**Additionally, the case clearly conveys that there are consequences for your actions. Mr. Southern was sentenced to Life in prison after a lengthy sentencing hearing. Judge Senterfitt appropriately decided that sentence even though my client was a juvenile. This case is a prime example of what will come if one does not tremendously value another person's life.**

## **2. STATE OF FLORIDA vs. CARLOS DANIELS**

**Case Number 162009MM007946AXXXMA**

**Judge: Honorable Sharon Tanner – County Court**

**Date of Dismissal: 7/17/2009**

**Counsel: Assistant State Attorney Richard Komando**

**My Role: Sole Counsel**

**This is a case where my client was charged with possession of marijuana. This charge was classified as a 2nd degree misdemeanor. My client recently graduated from high school and was employed with Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department.**

**On the night of the incident, Mr. Daniels went to a club to meet his friend, Mr. Harden. Mr. Daniels successfully went through security first. Before Mr. Harden went through security, he passed Mr. Daniels a handful of items including keys, lighter and a small bag of marijuana! The security guard observed this exchange. The police were called and both Mr. Daniels and Mr. Harden were given notices to appear for the charge of possession of marijuana.**

**I contacted the Assistant State Attorney early on and the State agreed to send the case to the diversion program. The diversion program would allow for the charges to be dropped after successful completion. My client chose not to accept the program because he thought it would negatively affect his job.**

**The State then formally filed the charges. I made contact with some supervisors and provided relevant case law on temporary possession; all to no avail. Thus, we set the case for trial and I filed a motion to dismiss. We also had some speedy trial issues. Judge Sharon Tanner heard all testimony at the hearing. Mr. Harden testified that he never smoked marijuana around my client because he knew my client did not do drugs. He also admitted that he passed the marijuana to Mr. Daniels and that Mr. Daniels was not made aware of it. Mr. Harden had already pled guilty and was required to pay court costs. After hearing all testimony, Judge Tanner granted the motion to dismiss.**

This is significant to me because it exhibits how and why knowing and studying the law is so important. However, even when you know the law and believe it is more favorable to your side, the risk element exists. I was so proud of Mr. Daniels. He could have easily said "let me take the easier way out" but chose to fight the charges. This case exemplifies the importance of knowing the law and legal research as well. It is also another great example of how we must all follow the law.

### **3. STATE OF FLORIDA vs. CEDRIC LANG**

**Case Number 162005CF007474AXXXMA**

**Judge: Honorable Mallory D. Cooper – Circuit Court**

**Date of Trial : 10/2006**

**Counsel: Assistant State Attorney John Kalinowski and Brian Aull**

**My Role: Lead Counsel**

**Co-Counsel: Attorney Melina Buncome-Williams**

Mr. Lang was a young man charged with several sexual battery (rape) counts. He did not have a prior felony record and pled not guilty. The maximum sentence that he could receive was life in prison.

He was accused of breaking into a home, robbing the victims and then sexually assaulting a young lady in the presence of her family members. The suspect was masked but left the condom in the kitchen sink. DNA was located and matched my client.

This case lasted for more than a year. It was very complicated and involved many experts. Frye (now Daubert) and various other testimonial hearings were held. After a lengthy trial on the first set of counts, my client was found guilty. Mr. Lang received a life sentence.

This case is significant to me because I struggled with the facts of the case because there was clear evidence of guilt. I have always tried to evaluate my cases from a defense and a prosecution perspective. There were many times in deposing the victims and having contact with them, that I witnessed their pain and emotion which greatly affected me. Although I diligently represented Mr. Lang, I concurred with the life sentence imposed upon him and justice was served.

### **4. ISIAH MATTISON vs. BETHMANN & BETHMANN**

**Case Number 162007CA005193AXXXMA**

**Judge: Honorable Peter J. Fryefield – Circuit Court**

**Date of Dismissal: 7/15/2009**

**Counsel: Kacie Kelly-Hutchinson, Esq., Boyd & Jenerette, P.A.**

**My Role: Sole Counsel**

**Mr. Isaiah Mattison was a personal injury client. He came to me after having two prior attorneys. The last firm that represented him was a pretty sizeable and noteworthy firm. That firm dropped his case because of Mr. Mattison's difficult personality. He also had some mental health issues.**

**Mr. Mattison was an extremely angry and rage-filled young man. Although, he did not have a valid license at the time he was driving and involved in this car accident; he had sustained some significant injuries. So while he had a decent impairment (injury) rating, Mr. Mattison's case had minimal jury appeal.**

**Rudeness and disrespectfulness are descriptive words that are an understatement regarding Mr. Mattison. I had to limit our oral conversations and reduce them to written correspondence. I asked for a male attorney to come over when Mr. Mattison needed to come to the office because my staff and I felt threatened. However, we were not alone with these feelings; the defense attorney also dreaded having contact with Mr. Mattison. She had heard many stories prior to my coming on the case. She wanted to avoid the depositions (already set) and mediations. Eventually and many months later, Mr. Mattison's case settled for more than double what his offer was prior to my handling of the case.**

**The lesson I learned with this case is that no matter how difficult the client is, justice is still deserved. I contemplated dropping his case. However, I knew there was a slim chance of another attorney accepting his case. In this instance, I believe and hope that my commitment promoted some confidence in our judicial system.**

#### **5. STATE OF FLORIDA VS. LATERANCE SELLERS**

**Case Number 162005CF008943AXXXMA**

**Judge: Honorable Lawrence P. Haddock – Circuit Court**

**Date of Trial: 10/2006**

**Counsel: Assistant State Attorney London Hairston and Beronton Whisnant**

**My Role: Lead Counsel**

**Co-Counsel: Attorney John Leombruno**

**The Defendant was charged with Armed Robbery. This case was in the Repeat Offender Court division because of the Defendant's prior record. The Defendant faced a mandatory life sentence if convicted.**

**It was an intense trial because the alleged victim was very hostile, evasive and aggressive during my cross-examination. Thus, his testimony lasted much longer than any of us expected. However, I maintained my professionalism throughout his demeaning and angry responses. This case reinforced a concept that I have tried to live by. You may not be able to control what happens to you, but you can always control your response to it.**

I am certain that the jury evaluated the alleged victim's demeanor as they assessed his credibility. The jury found my client not guilty. Another important point is that all the attorneys involved remained professional. Although we were adversaries, we were completely respectful of each other's role.

*Additionally, I have attached an email that was sent out from my boss at the time, Bill White (The Public Defender). I apologize for the length but it was important to show you the significance of professional dedication. As well, the email incorrectly refers to a "bailiff" but it was actually a police officer/evidence technician that approached me and asked how could someone make the specific request that I be the attorney assigned to handle their case.*

#### **6. STATE OF FLORIDA VS. EDWARD DOLANSKY**

**Case Number 162005CF009030AXXMA**

**Judge: Honorable Lawrence P. Haddock – Circuit Court**

**Date of Trial: 2/2006**

**Counsel: Assistant State Attorney London Hairston and Mike Williams**

**My Role: Lead Counsel**

**Co-Counsel: Attorney Kim Sadler**

**The Defendant in this case was charged with Armed Robbery by using a B-B gun. He was also in Repeat Offender Court and faced a mandatory life sentence if convicted. This case was very memorable because it involved many motion hearings and negotiations.**

**The client alleged that he was in jail for a year before he was visited by his prior attorney. So I expected Mr. Dolansky to be very angry. To the contrary, he was very respectful and appreciative of my efforts. Mr. Dolansky was found guilty of the most significant charge even though we put up an extensive fight. He is currently serving a life sentence in prison.**

**This case is noteworthy to me because it was not long after Mr. Dolansky's trial that I received a letter from another inmate with whom Mr. Dolansky had shared the details of his case with. It means a lot when a person who is serving a life sentence still thinks his defense attorney fought hard for him. *I have attached the relevant portions of the letter.***

**Rhonda P. Waters**

From: "Bill White" <wpw@pd4duval.coj.net>  
 To: "Rhonda P. Waters" <rpw@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Aubry Finklea" <aaf@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Xenia Regalado" <xir@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Ward Metzger" <wim@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Waffa Hanania" <wjh@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Victoria Mussallem" <vmm@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Valerie Limoge" <vll@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Valarie Hughes" <vah@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Tyler Lasnetak" <tll@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Tomas Rivera-Johnson" <trj@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Todd Niemczyk" <tn@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Terri Law" <tal@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Tara Scudder" <tas@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Susan Yazgi" <sgy@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Susan Murree" <smm@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Sue Evans" <mse@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Sue Chamberlain" <slc@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Stephen Albee" <sfa@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Stephanie Jaffe" <soj@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Sonita Young" <sdym@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Sherry Spurling" <sas@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Shelly Washburn" <mmw@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Shelley Eckels" <sce@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Sheila Sams" <sds@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Sean Espenship" <saes@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Scott Conroy" <sac@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Sarah Phillips" <sep@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Sandra Young" <sky@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Samantha Levine" <sl@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Ruth Ann Hepler" <rah@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Rosallnd Carter" <rk@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Robert Mason" <nwm@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Rita Mairs" <rm@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Regina Wright" <rw@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Raymond Forbes" <ref@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Randa Youngblood" <ray@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Precious Newton" <pn@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Phyllis Wiley" <pmw@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Paulene Showalter" <pms@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Patrick McGuinness" <ptm@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Patricia Kysar" <pak@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Pam Andrews" <pma@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Owen Schmidt" <jos@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Nola Choquette" <nwc@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Nicole Piersa" <nkp@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Nicole Keith" <njk@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Mike Kilpatrick" <mk@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Michelle Kalil" <mlk@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Michelle Calhoun" <msc@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Michelle Barki" <mab@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Michael Regan" <mpr@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Michael Bateh" <mlb@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Melina Buncome-Williams" <mbw@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Mary Muniz" <mjm@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Mary Hickson" <mwh@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Marleen Keehn" <msk@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Mark Jackson" <jmj@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Marla Moise" <mam@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Mandy Kuhn" <amk@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Lori Williams" <law@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Lori Ann Frank" <laf@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Lois Ragsdale" <lvr@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Logan Goraczewski" <lg@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Lisa Steely" <les@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Lewis Buzzleil" <lh@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Krista Gillespie" <kpg@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Kimberly Sadler" <kas@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Kelly Papa" <khp@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Katy Harris" <kah@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Katherine Littell" <kl@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Justin Rost" <jnr@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Joseph Frasier" <jff@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Joseph DeBelder" <jfd@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Jonathan Zisser" <jcz@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Jonathan Ruda" <jdr@pd4duval.coj.net>; "John Leombruno" <jpl@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Jo-Ann Farley" <jrf@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Jessica O'Hagan" <jdo@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Jennifer Weeks" <jew@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Jennifer Love" <jll@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Jeff Elliott" <jse@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Jeanne Carter" <jsc@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Jay Stewart" <jms@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Janice Porter" <jjp@pd4duval.coj.net>; "James Armstrong" <jja@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Ian Weldon" <iw@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Holly Ayers" <hca@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Greg Williams" <gmw@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Gonzalo Andux" <ga@pd4duval.coj.net>; "George Yazgi" <gy1@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Eva Soucek" <eps@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Elaine Ouellette" <epo@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Dottie Mors" <dlm@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Donna Miller" <dmm@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Donald Jaffe" <dj@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Debra Billard" <ddb@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Deborah Brooke" <dgb@pd4duval.coj.net>; "David Espiritu" <dae@pd4duval.coj.net>; "David Cronin" <dsc@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Danielle Weber" <dew@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Cynthia Veintemillas" <cmv@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Cynthia Hunold" <cch@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Cletis Watson" <cgw@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Clarence Calloway" <cc1@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Cindy Horton" <ch@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Christina Guildry" <clg@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Ceylone Lively" <col@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Casey Ratchford" <rcr@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Carr Smith" <wcs@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Calvin Robinson" <cr@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Bob Hair"



<rdh@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Blake Johnson" <bgj@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Billie Touchton" <bcd@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Barbara Jackson" <baj@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Barbara Carter" <bac@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Anthony Thomas" <art@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Anthony Presto" <avp@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Ann Finnell" <aef@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Andrew Ewing" <aet@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Andrea Fourman" <akf@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Allison Graham" <adg@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Alice Cohen" <arc@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Alan Chipperfield" <ac@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Al Perkins" <abp@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Adam Brandon" <acb@pd4duval.coj.net>; "Stephen Mosca" <sam@pd4duval.coj.net>

**Sent:** Friday, October 06, 2006 9:49 AM  
**Subject:** Re: CONGRATULATIONS

This is an inspirational verdict. I believe that it is due in large part to the jury seeing a lawyer fight a difficult judge and fight through a difficult set of facts. They could not have missed the dedication and commitment that Rhonda had for her client. During a break in the trial, right after the judge had raised his voice and, quite improperly, attacked her, Rhonda was approached by a bailiff who asked, "Can someone request to have you as his PD, or are you guys randomly assigned?" You can't pay for that kind of respect. Great job to the whole team that worked on this case.

B.

— Original Message —

**From:** Rhonda P. Waters

**To:** Aubry Finklea; Xenia Regalado; Ward Metzger; Waffa Hanania; Victoria Mussallem; Valerie Limoge; Valerie Hughes; Tyler Lasnetski; Tomas Rivera-Johnson; Todd Niemczyk; Terri Law; Tara Scudder; Susan Yazgi; Susan Murrhee; Sue Evans; Sue Chamberlain; Stephen Albee; Stephanie Jaffe; Sonita Young; Sherry Spurling; Shelly Washburn; Shelley Eckels; Sheila Sams; Sean Espenship; Scott Conroy; Sarah Phillips; Sandra Young; Samantha Levine; Ruth Ann Hepler; Rosalind Carter; Robert Mason; Rita Mairs; Regina Wright; Raymond Forbess; Randa Youngblood; Precious Newton; Phyllis Wiley; Paulene Showalter; Patrick McGuinness; Patricia Kyser; Pam Andrews; Owen Schmidt; Nola Choquette; Nicole Piersa; Nicole Keith; Mike Kilpatrick; Michelle Kalil; Michelle Calhoun; Michelle Barki; Michael Regan; Michael Bateh; Melina Buncome-Williams; Mary Muniz; Mary Hickson; Marleen Keehn; Mark Jackson; Maria Moise; Mandy Kuhn; Lori Williams; Lori Ann Frank; Lois Ragsdale; Logan Goraczewski; Lisa Steely; Lewis Buzzell; Krista Gillespie; Kimberly Sadler; Kelly Papa; Katy Harris; Katherine Littell; Justin Rost; Joseph Frasier; Joseph DeBelder; Jonathan Zisser; Jonathan Ruda; John Leombruno; Jo-Ann Farley; Jessica O'Hagan; Jennifer Weeks; Jennifer Love; Jeff Elliott; Jeanne Carter; Jay Stewart; Janice Porter; James Armstrong; Ian Weldon; Holly Ayers; Greg Williams; Gonzalo Andux; George Yazgi; Eva Soucek; Elaine Ouellette; Dottie Mors; Donna Miller; Donald Jaffe; Debra Billard; Deborah Brooke; David Espirtu; David Cronin; Danielle Weber; Cynthia Veintemillas; Cynthia Hunold; Cletis Watson; Clarence Calloway; Cindy Horton; Christina Guidry; Ceylone Lively; Casey Ratchford; Carr Smith; Calvin Robinson; Bob Hair; Blake Johnson; Billie Touchton; Bill White; Barbara Jackson; Barbara Carter; Anthony Thomas; Anthony Presto; Ann Finnell; Andrew Ewing; Andrea Fourman; Alison Graham; Alice Cohen; Alan Chipperfield; Al Perkins; Adam Brandon; Stephen Mosca

**Sent:** Friday, October 06, 2006 9:11 AM

**Subject:** Re: CONGRATULATIONS

I must let you know that Mr. Sellers was looking at a mandatory life sentence. The State asked George Bateh if they could withdraw the PRR mandatory life notice and he said no. This case reminds me that we are here for a much bigger purpose than we truly know. Thanks to Donna, Phyliss, Aubry, Ms. Barbara C., John Ruda, Mike, Steve, Andrew, Greg, Sue C., Krista, and all paralegals who assisted. Thanks Ann, Bill, Al, and Lewis for legal advise. Thanks to John for being a great second chair. Thanks to everyone else!

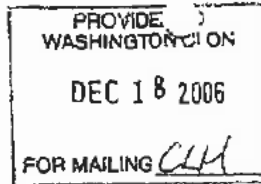
— Original Message —

**From:** Aubry Finklea

**To:** Xenia Regalado; Ward Metzger; Waffa Hanania; Victoria Mussallem; Valerie Limoge; Valerie Hughes; Tyler Lasnetski; Tomas Rivera-Johnson; Todd Niemczyk; Terri Law; Tara Scudder; Susan Yazgi; Susan Murrhee; Sue Evans; Sue Chamberlain; Stephen Albee; Stephanie Jaffe; Sonita Young; Sherry Spurling; Shelly Washburn; Shelley Eckels; Sheila Sams; Sean Espenship; Scott Conroy; Sarah Phillips; Sandra Young; Samantha Levine; Ruth Ann Hepler; Rosalind Carter; Robert Mason; Rita Mairs; Rhonda Waters; Regina Wright; Raymond Forbess; Randa Youngblood; Precious Newton; Phyllis Wiley; Paulene Showalter; Patrick McGuinness; Patricia Kyser; Pam Andrews; Owen Schmidt; Nola Choquette; Nicole

Piersa ; Nicole Keith ; Mike Kilpatrick ; Michelle Kafil ; Michelle Cathoun ; Michelle Barkl ; Michael Regan ;  
Michael Bateh ; Melina Buncome-Williams ; Mary Muniz ; Mary Hickson ; Marleen Keehn ; Mark Jackson ;  
Maria Moise ; Mandy Kuhn ; Lori Williams ; Lori Ann Frank ; Lols Ragsdale ; Logan Goraczewski ; Lisa Steely ;  
Lewis Buzzell ; Krista Gillespie ; Kimberly Sadler ; Kelly Papa ; Katy Harris ; Katherine Littell ; Justin Rost ;  
Joseph Frasier ; Joseph DeBelder ; Jonathan Zisser ; Jonathan Ruda ; John Leombruno ; Jo-Ann Farley ;  
Jessica O'Hagan ; Jennifer Weeks ; Jennifer Love ; Jeff Elliott ; Jeanne Carter ; Jay Stewart ; Janice Porter ;  
James Armstrong ; Ian Weldon ; Holly Ayers ; Greg Williams ; Gonzalo Andux ; George Yazqi ; Eva Soucek ;  
Elaine Quelfette ; Dottie Mors ; Donna Miller ; Donald Jaffe ; Debra Billard ; Deborah Brooke ; David Espiritu ;  
David Cronin ; Danielle Weber ; Cynthia Velintemillas ; Cynthia Hunold ; Cletis Watson ; Clarence Calloway ;  
Cindy Horton ; Christina Guidry ; Ceylone Lively ; Casey Ratchford ; Carr Smith ; Calvin Robinson ; Bob Hair ;  
Blake Johnson ; Billie Touchton ; Bill White ; Barbara Jackson ; Barbara Carter ; Aubry Finklea ; Anthony  
Thomas ; Anthony Presto ; Ann Finnell ; Andrew Ewing ; Andrea Fourman ; Alison Graham ; Alice Cohen ;  
Alan Chipperfield ; Al Perkins ; Adam Brandon ; Stephen Mosca  
**Sent:** Friday, October 06, 2006 8:39 AM  
**Subject:** CONGRATULATIONS

Rhonda Waters and John Leombruno  
NOT GUILTY !!!!!  
Laterance Sellers



1152850

December, 18, 2006

Mrs./Ms. Florida Waters,

Powerfully, this letter finds you in the best of health with your mind, body and spirit.

Good day Mrs./Ms Waters. As if yet, you do not know of me and I hope this initial intrusion does not offend or displease you. I understand how busy of a person you may be, yet, there are things to be said and must be said. Please take the time to read the personal little note of appreciation and if at this time you do not have the time to take your time and completely absorb my words, please, set the letter aside. Take it home with you and review it while you relax in a hot bubble bath. Or better yet, read it over a ham sandwich at your desk during your lunch break. In any accord, I want you to pay full attention, and anything less than your full attention I will not accept.

You are a brave and delightfully assertive woman.

Through the entire trial, when all odds were stacked against you, you never gave up... and that says a lot about your character. You have really impressed me Florida, very much so. The trial I am referring to involves a wrong man by the name of Eddie Dolan. Well, we call him "Eke". Anyway, Eke has asked me to assist him in filing an initial brief for his direct appeal. This is how I have come to know of you, and be motivated by you.

For some reason, I continuously think about you. Not in the obsessive way that is depicted in the movies or in any portrayed or mammish way either. I think of you in the way of and along the lines of my personal heroism. I admire you. Just say

reading) Eddie's transcripts and depositions, I can almost mentally see you speaking, moving) around your arena and dominating) the scene with much authority, I like that in a woman. I like that in you. Although I have never actually met you in person, I feel as though I am very familiar with you. Just - its something about your demeanor... your expressions. Maybe one day (hopefully soon) we will meet. Then I will be able to put my imagination to rest and put a face and smile to this unknown entity I admire so much.

May) I hold your attention as if it were your hand for just a few more delicate minutes? Thank you very much.

Now, a little about me: I am a young black male, 24 years old and born under the sign of Aquarius. My birth date is February 10, 1982 and I took my first breath of life in Fort Lauderdale, FL. I grew up in various foster homes until I was 12, and at that time I was placed in a permanent program called SOS Children's Village of Florida, and I met Governor Lawton Chiles (RIP) soon after my inception. Despite its faults, the program gave me much needed stability, which put me on track to graduate from Coral Springs High School - 4/2000. I have always been the center of attention because I demand attention, yet, at the same time, I can be as invisible as dandruff on a white T-shirt. I acquired the name C-4 (later changed to C.F.O.E.) for my explosive temper and dangerous mannerisms. You see, I had a habit of holding in my emotions especially things that hurt me, and sometimes, someone would put the right ingredients together and mix us together and BOOM! there I went. Trust me Shrewty, it was not a pretty sight. Now, (Thank God) I have adapted to life and have learned to deal with things in a more healthier, safer way. If you take a Rubix Cube and give it a few twists and spins, you will have an exact replica of my life.

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.

- **Yamit and Ella Highsmith vs. Pizza Hut**  
**My Role: Sole Responsibility**
- **Estate of Emma Moore**  
**My Role: Sole Responsibility**
- **State of Florida Department of Revenue vs. Dylan Douglas**  
**My Role: Sole Responsibility**
- **State of Florida vs. Shantell Serrant**  
**My Role: Sole Responsibility**
- **State of Florida vs. Shireeka Wilson**  
**My Role: Sole Responsibility**
- **State of Florida vs. Micheal McLaurin**  
**My Role: Sole Responsibility**

**Please see attached TAB 2.**

**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.

**Yes. I was a judicial candidate for Duval County Court. I filed to run in October 2011. The election dates were August 14, 2012 and November 6, 2012 (run-off).**

32b. List any prior quasi-judicial service:

**Not Applicable**

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. City of Jacksonville Ethics Commissioner in Jacksonville, Florida.  
May 2009 - September 2011**

32d. If you have had prior judicial or quasi-judicial experience,

- (i) List the names, phone numbers and addresses of six attorneys who appeared before you on matters of substance.
- (ii) Describe the approximate number and nature of the cases you have handled during your judicial or quasi-judicial tenure.
- (iii) List citations of any opinions which have been published.

- (iv) List citations or styles and describe the five most significant cases you have tried or heard. Identify the parties, describe the cases and tell why you believe them to be significant. Give dates tried and names of attorneys involved.
- (v) Has a complaint about you ever been made to the Judicial Qualifications Commission? If so, give date, describe complaint, whether or not there was a finding of probable cause, whether or not you have appeared before the Commission, and its resolution.
- (vi) Have you ever held an attorney in contempt? If so, for each instance state name of attorney, approximate date and circumstances.
- (vii) If you are a quasi-judicial officer (ALJ, Magistrate, General Master), have you ever been disciplined or reprimanded by a sitting judge? If so, describe.

**Not Applicable**

**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 the President and Owner of my legal practice, Rhonda Peoples-Waters, P.A. I am responsible for most of the duties of running my own business. I practice law, while also managing the accounts and payroll to a great extent. I have two full-time paralegals and two part-time interns. I will resign from my current position and close my business, if appointed to the judiciary.**

- 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.

**I was employed briefly at Dillard's Department Store during the winter of 1999. I also operated two beauty consulting businesses: Mary Kay (2004-2005) and Arbonne (2006). Further, I was previously employed part-time with the State of Florida as the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Coordinator from April 2010 through approximately April 2011.**

- 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.

**I was a part-time employee with the State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. My job title was coordinator for the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative. This initiative works with the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Juvenile Judges, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and other community stakeholders to explore alternatives to secure detention. I was paid \$25.00 per hour (April 2010- April 2011) with an average of 5 hours per week.**

**POSSIBLE BIAS OR PREJUDICE:**

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

**None applicable.**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- 35a. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?

Yes  No

- 35b. Have you pled nolo contendere or pled guilty to a crime which is a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?

Yes  No

- 35c. Have you ever had the adjudication of guilt withheld for a crime which is a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?

Yes  No

- 36a. Have you ever been sued by a client? If so, give particulars including name of client, date suit filed, court, case number and disposition.

Yes  No

- 36b. Has any lawsuit to your knowledge been filed alleging malpractice as a result of action or inaction on your part?

Yes  No

- 36c. Have you or your professional liability insurance carrier ever settled a claim against you for professional malpractice? If so, give particulars, including the amounts involved.

Yes  No

- 37a. Have you ever filed a personal petition in bankruptcy or has a petition in bankruptcy been filed against you?

Yes  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.

Yes  No

38. Have you ever been a party to a lawsuit either as a plaintiff or as a defendant? If so, please supply the jurisdiction/county in which the lawsuit was filed, style, case number, nature of the lawsuit, whether you were Plaintiff or Defendant and its disposition.

**Yes. As a minor, a suit was filed on my behalf by my parents in Selma, Alabama. The incident happened more than 23 years ago and I am unable to locate the case number. The case was against Kress Store in the Selma Mall. That particular store has been closed for many years. However, I was falsely accused of stealing a watch. I was detained and searched by a store employee. It was determined that I did not have the watch nor any stolen items in my possession. My parents were infuriated knowing the values they instilled in me and the store's action taken on that day. A monetary settlement resolved the case.**

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.

Yes  No

40. To your knowledge within the last ten years, have any of your current or former coworkers, 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).

Yes  No

**I am aware of an incident that occurred while I worked in the Public Defender's Office. I am not sure of the exact date but I am certain it was between the years of 2000-2006. I was called into my supervisor's (Bill White's) office and advised that I had been investigated by an unnamed agency. There was an allegation made by an inmate that I brought the drugs he was found with into the jail. I was not told that I was under investigation until the investigation was completed. The results of the investigation revealed that there was no truth to what the inmate alleged regarding me. I never received any documentation related to this incident. This incident further confirmed that your actions are most significant when you don't know that people are watching you. Honesty and integrity are chief in my life.**



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.

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

43a. Have you filed all past tax returns as required by federal, state, local and other government authorities?

Yes  No

If no, please explain.

43b. Have you ever paid a tax penalty?

Yes  No

If yes, please explain what and why.

**I have paid a tax penalty some years ago for late filing and late payments previously. However, I have corrected those issues by hiring a different accountant and utilizing a payroll service. I do not owe any money to the IRS.**

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

Yes  No

#### **HONORS AND PUBLICATIONS:**

44. If you have published any books or articles, list them, giving citations and dates.

**Not Applicable**

45. List any honors, prizes or awards you have received. Give dates.

- **National Bar Association Nations' Best Advocate: 40 under 40 (2013)**
- **Campaign Endorsements from Fraternal Order of Police, Florida Times Union and others (2012)**
- **Florida State Baptist Convention Oratorical Contest Certificate of Recognition for Serving as a Judge (2011)**

- Wolfson High School Certificate of Recognition as Black History Career Day Presenter (2011)
- Youth Explosion/ First Baptist of Oakland Church Event Sponsor Award (2008 - 2010)
- Florida Star Newspaper People to Watch List (2009)
- Rutledge H. Pearson NAACP Memorial Award (2008)
- D.W. Perkins Bar Association Board Member Appreciation Award (2008)
- D.W. Perkins Bar Association Outstanding Community Service Award (2007)
- Jacksonville's Branch NAACP President's Award (2007)
- Public Defender's Office Repeat Offender-Not Guilty Award (2002)
- Defender College VI - Best Advocate Award (2000)
- Public Defender's Office Trial Goddess Award (2000)
- University of Florida College Law Pro Bono Award Certificate (1999)

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

I gave hundreds of speeches while I was campaigning to various organizations and groups of people. I informed potential voters about my qualifications for judicial office and dedication to public service. I spoke often of the judicial role of following the law as it is written.

I gave speeches on several occasions when I volunteered with the Justice Teaching program. The areas covered topics of constitutional law.

Further, I volunteer at frequently at elementary, middle and high schools where I have spoken to the students on the importance of education, hard work, and my experience as a lawyer.

47. Do you have a Martindale-Hubbell rating?

Yes  No

**PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

48a. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any office which you may have held in such groups and committees to which you belonged.

- Daniel Webster Perkins Bar Association  
2009-2014 Member

**Committees:** Judicial Reception, Scholarship Banquet, Media/Website and Holiday Gala.

2008-2009 President

*Committees:* Judicial Reception, Scholarship Banquet, Media/Website, Candidate Forums and Holiday Gala.

2007-2008 President- Elect

*Committees:* Judicial Reception, Scholarship Banquet and Media/Website.

2006-2007 Member

*Committees:* Candidate Forums and Scholarship Banquet.

(I have also participated as a member various times between 2000 - 2006. During those times, I participated on some of the same committees mentioned above.)

- Jacksonville Bar Association
  - National Bar Association/Virgil Hawkins Chester Bedell Inn of Courts
  - Jacksonville Area Legal Aid
  - City of Jacksonville Ethics Commission
  - Jacksonville Women Lawyers Assoc.
  - Mayor's Legal Transition Team
  - Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
  - Jacksonville Political Leadership Institute
- Diversity Committee (2008-2013)  
Member (2008- Present)  
Barrister and Group Chair (2009- 2010)  
Board of Directors, 2013-2014  
Vice President, Human Resources Committee  
Legislative and Transparency/ Open Government (Chair) Committees (2009-2011)  
Member (2011-2012)  
Member (2011)  
Member (2008-Present)  
Member (2010)

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.

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
  - NAACP-Jacksonville Branch
  - First Baptist Church of Oakland
  - Bethel Baptist Institutional Church
  - Mad Dads
  - PTA-James Weldon Johnson Middle School
  - PTA-R.V. Daniels Elementary School
  - PTA-Susie E. Tolbert Elementary School
- Gamma Rho Omega Chapter  
Committee Chair (2008- Present)  
Board Member (2007-Present)  
Trustee (2009- Present)  
Previous Member (2008)  
Previous Member (2008)  
Member (2011- Present)  
PTA President (2010-2011)  
PTA President (2010-2011)

48c. List your hobbies or other vocational interests.

**Reading, movies, shopping, traveling, football, church involvement, and enjoying family, friends and our community.**

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.

**As a student at Fisk University, I was initiated into Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. This organization was and is limited to female members. I am a member of the local Gamma Rho Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Since this sorority is involved in many philanthropic acts, I would like to continue my involvement if selected to be a member of the judiciary.**

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

- **Voter Registration and Legal Information Forums:**

June 23, 2007

July 19, 2008

July 26, 2008

September 6, 2008

October 4, 2008

August 2008-100 Black Men Event

August 2008- Youth Explosion Event

September 2008 – Church Event

Summer 2008- Church Event

Winter 2007/2008- African-American Chamber of Commerce

Spring 2008 – High School Registrations with the Supervisor of Elections Office

(I personally attended each event and was the lead organizer for most.)

- **Candidate Forums:**

February 2011 (Mayor)

Fall 2010 (Judicial, City Council, State Representative, and School Board)

July 10, 2008 (State Attorney/ Public Defender)

July 29, 2008 (Circuit Court Judges)

August 5, 2008 (State Representative, City Council, and School Board)

August 14, 2008 (State Attorney/ Circuit Court Judges)

(I personally attended each event and was the lead organizer or moderator.)

- **Justice Teaching Program Volunteer:**

I was trained and volunteered at my assigned school to promote this project of the Supreme Court. (2007- 2008)

- **Jacksonville Area Legal Aid/ Jacksonville Bar Association:**

Ask-A-Lawyer Events - March 2011 and various times in 2012

- **General Pro-Bono Service:**  
I also occasionally handle various types of pro-bono cases such as probate and family law matters. I also assist various churches and groups with legal matters. (2008-Present)

**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 in the past five years. The substantive areas include criminal law (including life over death), ethics, federal practice, trust accounting, personal injury, and trial practice. I have also obtained hours from attending judicial sidebar events, the Justice Teaching initiative, and diversity symposiums.**

- 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 taught several business law courses at Florida Community College of Jacksonville.**

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

**I am certain that my experience as a division chief in both Repeat Offender Court divisions will be an additional asset to my potential role with the judiciary. I learned skills related to time and case management. I also gained valuable supervisory lessons.**

**While managing my own trials and cases, I learned to also make time to research with and give advice to the other attorneys assigned in the division. I particularly enhanced my ability to be a team player and develop more patience. I expect these attributes to contribute to my ability to serve the judiciary well.**

**Additionally, it has been distinctively valuable to serve as a member of the Ethics Commission. I have had the opportunity to listen and evaluate the concerns of others. This perspective must be viewed from all sides whether it be supervisor/employee roles or elected official/citizen roles. My service with the Ethics Commission has further reiterated the importance of the adherence to rules and laws.**

**Further, my experience during my judicial campaign has helped me to have a greater respect for the community I serve. For example, listening to the police officers that sacrifice their lives daily for our safety and gaining their endorsement will impact me forever. It has helped me to further grasp the importance of**

**following the law. I also heard thousands of voters' voices on how following the law will bring about justice in the greatest legal system in the world.**

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

**The particular potential contribution that I believe my selection would bring to the role as Circuit Court Judge is a mixture of patience, kindness balanced with control, a passion for the law and research, and a true love of service. My resume and history clearly define my life as one dedicated to serve all people.**

**I understand that the role of a judge is to be fair and impartial. I also look at the role as an opportunity to offer leadership and serve as a role model. My role as a judge may be the only contact that some people may have with righteousness and fairness all day or even in a lifetime. I will follow the law and apply it to the cases that I handle in a way that will strengthen the community's respect for our judiciary. I am confident that I will serve the bench in a way that will make all citizens proud.**

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.

**I previously submitted an application to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission in October 2009 (circuit seat), April 2011 (circuit seat) and August 2011 (county seat).**

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

**First, I have to express how honored I am that I can be in a position to submit this application. I am honored that more than 149,000 voters thought I would serve the judiciary well. I owe all glory to GOD. If appointed, I will work in a way that uplifts this entire community. I understand that justice must be viewed from all sides.**

**I have lived most of my life in Selma, Alabama. At a young age, my father gathered cotton to help make a living for his family. My grandmother went to school with Coretta Scott-King. My grandfather worked at my high school as a janitor. My mother is a school teacher. You see, hard work has been a vital part of my family life. Thus, when given the opportunity to go to college and law school; I felt an obligation and desire to contribute my best to society.**

**I have attached several articles that exhibit some of my work and efforts to enhance the community in TAB 3 of this packet. They include valuable, campaign endorsements from thousands of voters (covering a wide-spectrum of this community) who believe in my ability to serve as a fair and impartial judge who will follow the law. Some of my work and leadership with various bar associations is also evidenced in the attached articles. I have also included letters from past/current defendants and their family members. I hope this information aids you to see my true character and determination. I am devoted to service.**

Moreover, I think one of the best views that I can leave you with is my willpower to make this community a better place for my own child and all others. I never imagined that I would be in the position of a single-mother. However, I have learned that though I cannot change many things that will happen in life; I can direct how I will respond to them. That is a lesson that I think many of us can apply to our daily lives and be better off.

Past performance is a good indicator of what is to come. My past indicates that I have the correct judicial temperament, am a legal scholar with the ability to work through complex matters and a known hard-worker. The entire community can trust me to be impartial, require accountability and to render fair and equitable results. Thus, I am certain that if you rely on my past performance and reputation; your decision to nominate me to the position of Circuit Judge will make you proud for years to come.

## 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.

1. State the amount of gross income you have earned, or losses you have incurred (before deducting expenses and taxes) from the practice of law for the preceding three-year period. This income figure should be stated on a year to year basis and include year to date information, and salary, if the nature of your employment is in a legal field.
2. State the amount of net income you have earned, or losses you have incurred (after deducting expenses but not taxes) from the practice of law for the preceding three-year period. This income figure should be stated on a year to year basis and include year to date information, and salary, if the nature of your employment is in a legal field.
3. State the gross amount of income or losses incurred (before deducting expenses or taxes) you have earned in the preceding three years on a year by year basis from all sources other than the practice of law, and generally describe the source of such income or losses.
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.

**Please see TAB 4.**



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: **Rhonda Peoples-Waters**

Signature of Applicant: *Rhonda Peoples-Waters*

Date: **January 29, 2014**