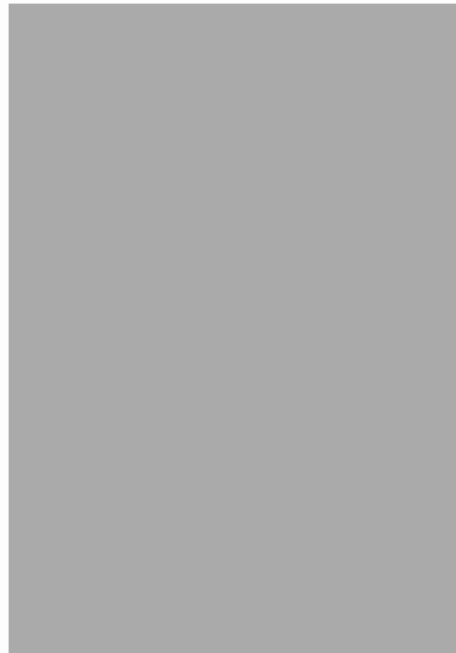


Application for Appointment
to the Circuit Court of the
17th Judicial Circuit



Judge Stacy M. Ross

APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT

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

DATE: May 10th, 2013 Florida Bar No.: 138703

GENERAL: Social Security No.: 

1. Name Stacy M. Ross E-mail: stacyribas28@msn.com

Date Admitted to Practice in Florida: April 20, 1998

Date Admitted to Practice in other States: N/A

2. State current employer and title, including professional position and any public or judicial office.

County Court Judge for the 17th Judicial Circuit

3. Business address: 201 S.E. 6th Street, Ste. 359

City Fort Lauderdale County Broward State FL ZIP 33301

Telephone (954) 831-7396 FAX (954) 831-7324

4. Residential address: 

City 

Since 2001 Telephone 

5. Place of birth: Fort Lauderdale, FL

Date of birth:  Age: 42

6a. Length of residence in State of Florida: 42 years

6b. Are you a registered voter? Yes No

If so, in what county are you registered? Broward

7. Marital status: Married

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.

N/A

8. Children

Name(s) *Age(s)* *Occupation(s)* *Residential address(es)*



9. Military Service (including Reserves)

Service *Branch* *Highest Rank* *Dates*

N/A

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.

<i>Schools</i>	<i>Class Standing</i>	<i>Dates of Attendance</i>	<i>Degree</i>
Cardinal Gibbons High School	top 7%	1984-1988	High School Diploma
University of Florida	unavailable	1988-1993	Bachelor of Arts
Nova Southeastern University	unavailable	1994-1997	Juris Doctor
Florida Judicial College Phase I & II	N/A	2006	N/A

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

1. Cardinal Gibbons High School- National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Honor Roll. My senior year GPA was a 4.18; my over-all cumulative GPA was 3.87. I also received the Presidential Academic Fitness Award.

2. University of Florida- Dean's List, Spring of 1993. I also earned a 3.5 GPA or above in the Fall of 1991 and the Fall of 1993.

3. Nova Southeastern University- Pro Bono Honor Program. Upon graduation, I received the Gold (highest) Level honor for contributing over 300 public service hours while in law school.

NON-LEGAL EMPLOYMENT:

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Employer</i>	<i>Address</i>
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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.

<i>Court or Administrative Body</i>	<i>Date of Admission</i>
The Florida Bar	4/20/98

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:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name of Firm</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Assistant State Attorney	Office of the State Attorney, 17 th Judicial Circuit	201 S.E. 6 th Street Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301	April 1998- December 2005
Legal Intern	Office of the State Attorney, 17 th Judicial Circuit	201 S.E. 6 th Street Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301	January- April 1997 and September - December 1997
Law Clerk	U.S. Magistrate Judge Barry Seltzer	299 E. Broward Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301	May - August 1995

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.

Before I became a judge, I was an Assistant State Attorney for the 17th Judicial Circuit. Listed below is a brief description of my prior duties:

1. **Felony Trial Unit Supervisor-** Direct supervisor of four divisions, with eight attorneys. Indirectly supervised approximately 40 attorneys in the largest unit of the Office. Supervision included analysis of legal issues and authorizing appropriate dispositions of problematic cases. Investigated and prosecuted DUI manslaughter and vehicular homicide cases. Assigned to cases involving complex legal issues. Executive assignments to cases in other jurisdictions, including Dade and Palm Beach counties. Attended parole hearings in Tallahassee.
2. **Sexual Battery Prosecutor-** Prepared and tried a variety of sexual battery charges and crimes against children. Participated in the investigation of cases, pre-filing interviews and argued motions regarding child hearsay exception.
3. **Felony Trial Unit Prosecutor-** As a lead prosecutor, I handled and tried several felony charges. Assisted three junior attorneys within the division and responsible for administrative duties.
4. **Juvenile Unit Prosecutor-** Prosecuted juveniles for various misdemeanors and serious felonies, including arson. Tried several non-jury trials, argued motions and attended depositions.
5. **County Court Prosecutor-** Tried misdemeanor DUI, battery, possession of drugs, and various traffic offenses. Filed charging documents based on probable cause affidavits and meeting with victims.

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

	_____		_____
	_____ %		_____ %
TOTAL	100 %	TOTAL	100 %

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

Jury?	50	Non-jury?	20
Arbitration?	None	Administrative Bodies?	None

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.

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).

N/A

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).

N/A

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

27d. During the last five years, how frequently have you appeared in Court?
N/A 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? N/A% Defendants?
 _____%

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.

Below I have listed the jury trials that I tried to verdict during my last five years as an Assistant State Attorney. I have also noted my role in each jury trial.

Case Name -	Charge	(My role)
State vs. John Russell-	Murder 2	(sole counsel)
State vs. Todd Beals-	DUI Manslaughter	(chief counsel)
State vs. Tino Corleone-	Armed Robbery, Kidnapping	(sole counsel)
State vs. Julian Romero-	Kidnapping, Capital Sexual Battery	(sole counsel)
State vs. Michael Benda-	Capital Sexual Battery	(chief counsel)
State vs. Alton Carver-	Lewd and Lascivious Molestation	(sole counsel)
State vs. Richard Sterk-	Aggravated Assault Firearm, Child Abuse	(sole counsel)
State vs. Stanley Hall-	Sexual Battery, Carjacking	(sole counsel)
State vs. Kevin Pierre-	Armed Robbery	(sole counsel)
State vs. Louis Prestia-	Aggravated Assault Firearm	(sole counsel)
State vs. Maria Garcia-	Murder 2	(chief counsel)
State vs. Lonnie Waldron-	Possession of Cocaine	(sole counsel)
State vs. Scott Capelli-	Possession of Cocaine	(sole counsel)
State vs. Autry Shelton-	Armed Robbery	(co-counsel)
State vs. Anthony Green-	Armed Robbery	(co-counsel)
State vs. Troy King-	Delivery of Cocaine	(sole counsel)
State vs. Shane Barrett-	Aggravated Assault Firearm	(sole counsel)
State vs. Felicia Thomas-	Aggravated Assault on a LEO	(sole counsel)
State vs. James Zahardis-	Aggravated Battery	(sole counsel)
State vs. Kevin Lamar-	Possession of Cocaine within 1000 ft of a Church	(sole counsel)
State vs. Tayreff Cox-	Aggravated Battery on a Pregnant Female	(sole counsel)
State vs. Rufus Jackson-	Aggravated Assault	(sole counsel)
State vs. Rodney Davis-	Possession of Cocaine	(sole counsel)
State vs. Derrick Harvey-	Delivery of Cocaine	(sole counsel)
State vs. Ronel Gabriel-	Aggravated Battery on a Pregnant Female	(sole counsel)
State vs. William Shackelford-	Possession of Cocaine with Intent	(sole counsel)
State vs. Wardell Everett-	Delivery of Cocaine within 1000 ft of a School	(sole counsel)
State vs. Francisco Montero-	Possession of Cocaine	(sole counsel)
State vs. Christine Frias-	Battery on a LEO	(sole counsel)

State vs. Donald Howard- Uttering a Forged Instrument (sole counsel)

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

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.

Although this question is optional, because I have been a sitting judge for more than 5 years, I am submitting my previous answers from when I was an Assistant State Attorney. Each case below I tried as either lead or sole counsel:

1. State vs. Michael Benda- Case #00-18013CF10A (per curiam affirmed)

Charges: I-XIV. Sexual Battery Upon a Child, XV. Indecent Assault, XVI. Lewd and Lascivious Molestation, XVII. Indecent Assault, XVIII. Lewd and Lascivious Conduct

Sentence: 12 consecutive life sentences, followed by 75 years in Florida State Prison

Judge Peter Weinstein

Defense Attorney: Gawane Grant

Second chair: Nathan Avrunin

Date of verdict: 7/18/02

This trial was a capital sexual battery involving crimes perpetrated upon an eight-year-old boy. The victim was repeatedly anally raped, forced to engage in oral sex and molested by the defendant. The defendant was a trusted family friend. This case was so significant to me because of the devastating emotional effect that the victim and his family suffered due to the heinous acts of the defendant. At the defendant's sentencing, the eight-year-old boy/victim gave me an inscribed bookmark with his picture. The inscription says, "I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds tomorrow." I keep this bookmark prominently displayed on my desk. It is there to remind me that it is the children of this country that hold tomorrow. We must protect them from sexual predators who prey upon their innocence and rob them of their precious childhood. In this case, the presiding judge found absolutely no mitigating circumstances, causing him to sentence the defendant to the maximum allowable sentence under the law.

2. State vs. Todd Beals Case #00-6750CF10A

Charge: DUI Manslaughter

Sentence: 15 years Florida State Prison

Judge Peter Weinstein

Defense Attorney: Kathleen McHugh

Second chair: Kelly Reynolds Dell

Date of verdict: 1/23/04

In this case, a 70 year-old woman was walking across the street with her daughter when she was struck and killed by the defendant. The defendant's blood was drawn at the scene and the results indicated that he was impaired by alcohol at the time of the crash. At trial, the defense argued that the defendant/driver was unable to see the pedestrian/victim, because it was nighttime and the pedestrian/victim was not crossing the road in a designated crosswalk. The daughter who witnessed her mother's death was subsequently Baker-Acted and unable to testify at trial due to competency issues. This case was particularly challenging because it involved expert testimony and cross examination in many different fields: accident reconstruction, toxicology and medical. Based on the facts of this case and the defendant's prior history (two previous DUI convictions), he received the maximum sentence of 15 years in prison upon conviction.

3. State vs. Julian Romero Case #00-19330CF10A

Charges: I. Kidnapping, II. -IV. Sexual Battery, Victim Threatened

Sentence: Life in prison

Judge Peter Weinstein

Defense Attorney: Bernie Bober

Date of verdict: 8/9/02

This case involved a 49-year-old woman who was kidnapped and repeatedly raped off of Alligator Alley. The victim was anally and vaginally raped on a picnic table at a public rest station. She was then forced to use discarded newspaper to clean herself of blood and semen. The victim finally escaped and sought help from a clerk at a gas station. Because DNA evidence was recovered and presented at trial, the defense argued that the sex was consensual.

This case was significant to me because of the violence exhibited by the defendant. The victim truly believed that she would meet her death at the hands of the defendant and that she would never see her family again. In fact, the defendant was the main suspect in a double homicide in Palm Beach County, but he was never charged due to a lack of evidence. Due to this conviction, a violent predator will be incarcerated for the rest of his life.

4. State vs. John Russell Case #01-15593CF10A

Charge: Second degree Murder

Sentence: 15 years Florida State Prison

Judge Susan Lebow

Defense attorney: Samuel Halpern

Date of verdict: 10/12/04 (guilty of Manslaughter)

This case was filed under the 10-20-Life statute, because the defendant used a

firearm to kill his partner. The victim was shot one time in the head and died immediately. There were no eyewitnesses to the shooting. I went to trial on this case two times within months (in the first trial, the defense asked for a mistrial to pursue the insanity defense). However, in the second trial, the defense argued that the shooting was accidental and a result of a struggle for the gun. This case was significant to me because it confronted me with many technical issues regarding crime scene reconstruction. My case presentation relied heavily upon forensic evidence, such as blood spatter, gunpowder residue, bullet trajectory and medical examination. In cases such as this, I must educate myself on different areas of expertise in order to be effective in trial. I embrace these opportunities, because it allows me to grow as an attorney.

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.

I have attached two writing samples. The first is an order that I entered on the State of Florida vs. Can Guner. The second writing sample attached is the Uniform "Plea Form and Waiver of Right to Private and/or Court Appointed Attorney." This plea form is used in all criminal courtrooms in Broward County. In July of 2011, I, along with a representative from the State Attorney's and the Public Defender's Office, revised these forms to be in compliance with the current law.

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 am currently serving as a County Court Judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit. I was appointed in December of 2005. I was reelected, unopposed, in 2008.

- 32b. List any prior quasi-judicial service:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Position Held</i>
N/A		

Types of issues heard:

- 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.

No.

- 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.

1. David Bogenschutz, Bogenschutz Dutko & Kroll PA, 600 S. Andrews Ave., Ste 500 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 Ph. (954) 764-2500
 2. Matthew Fiorello, Peterson Bernard, 1550 Southern Blvd., Ste. 300 West Palm Beach, Florida 33306 Ph. (561) 686-5005
 3. Elias Hilal, 633 SE 3rd Ave., Ste. 301 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 Ph. (954) 463-2065
 4. Abidemi Oladipo, Colodny Fass Talenfeld Karlinsky Abate & Web, 100 SE 3rd Ave., Fl 23 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33394 Ph. (954) 492-4010
 5. Brent Reitman, Office of the State Attorney, 201 SE 6th St., Ste. 655 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 Ph. (954) 831-7184
 6. Mariya Weekes, Office of the State Attorney, 201 SE 6th St., Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 Ph. (954) 831-8429
- (ii) Describe the approximate number and nature of the cases you have handled during your judicial or quasi-judicial tenure.

I am currently assigned to the civil division in county court. I hear cases involving matters under \$15,000, Personal Injury Protection cases, landlord/tenant disputes and small claims. I preside over both jury and non-jury trials.

My daily calendar consists of special set hearings, including motions for summary judgment, discovery issues and attorney fee hearings. Many of my small claims and landlord/tenant cases involve unrepresented litigants.

Prior to this assignment, I was in the criminal division. While there, I presided over 200 trials and thousands of cases. I have heard countless arraignments and motions to suppress. Typical charges included DUI, battery, theft, possession of drugs and traffic criminal violations.

- (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. State vs. Denise Tamburini

Attorneys: various Assistant State Attorneys and Defense Attorney A.J. Amoroso

Date: 11/3/08

This case serves to remind me of the devastating affects of drugs and alcohol in our community. The Defendant, Ms. [REDACTED] appeared before me charged with DUI. She also had pending felony drug possessions. As litigation continued, it became apparent that the Defendant was suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, coupled with a mental health issue. Unfortunately, these types of "dual diagnosis" situations are common in the court system. In order to closely monitor

Ms. [REDACTED] she appeared before me on a consistent basis. At times, she was difficult to monitor and I had to place her in custody for violating her pretrial release conditions. She was required to attend intensive treatment and take prescribed medication. Because her court appearances were so frequent, I developed somewhat of a rapport with Ms. [REDACTED] and her husband, Keith. At one point, all parties recommended that I transfer her misdemeanor case to the felony court where she could participate in the Felony Mental Health program. There, additional services could be rendered; so I signed the transfer order.

Eventually, I was informed that Ms. [REDACTED] had successfully completed the Felony Mental Health program and that her competency was restored. Therefore, her case would be transferred back to me for trial or disposition. On the day that her case was docketed, I waited for Ms. [REDACTED] to triumphantly appear. Unfortunately, she did not. Only her husband, Keith, came. He wanted to let me know that Ms. [REDACTED] had lost her battle with addiction and died of a drug overdose. Keith also told me that one of his wife's greatest concerns in life was disappointing me; that my praise and encouragement meant everything to her. Keith thanked me for my efforts and handed me a card. Inscribed were these words, "The highest form of wisdom is kindness."

2. State vs. Raj Motwani Case #09021315TC10A

Assistant State Attorney: Nicole Bloom and

Defense Attorney: Dave Boganschutz

Date of Sentencing: 7/21/10

In this case, the Defendant was driving on I-595 early one Sunday morning when his car veered to the right and hit a bicyclist. The Defendant should not have been driving, because he had a suspended license. The bicyclist was riding in a group who were clearly marked in bright clothing. The bicyclist died as a result of his injuries. The Defendant admitted his guilt and elected to plea open to me for sentencing.

This case was particularly difficult for me because of the emotion involved on both sides. In no way did the Defendant intend to kill the victim. By all accounts, it was a tragic accident. The Defendant was so filled with remorse that he went to India to bathe in the Ganges for forgiveness. At the sentencing hearing, the Defendant's wife testified that she believed that the miscarriage of their child was due to the anguish of this incident.

The victim's family and friends filled the courtroom to tell me about the life of their lost loved one. Neighbors described how the victim was always there to assist in times of need. Others explained how the victim was the nurse that was called in the middle of the night for patients that didn't have money or insurance, because he would volunteer his services. His widow cried throughout the entire proceeding.

In some cases, there are absolutely no "winners." Many times, the decisions that must be made are challenging. It is certainly easier to ask for a level of punishment, but quite another burden to actually impose the sentence. For a

sentence to be just, it must be made in accordance with the law, while taking into account the viewpoints expressed by all parties. This case is of particular significance as it shows that I have the ability and experience to make the difficult decisions that are prevalent in the circuit court.

3. State vs. Elle Furlong 06-017807MM10A

Assistant State Attorney: Tal Shemtov

Defense Attorney: Greg Lauer

Trial Date: 7/10/07

This case represents to me both the best and the worst of our legal profession. The Defendant in this case, Ms. Elle Furlong, is a law school graduate. She was charged with a petit theft from Publix. The Defendant went to trial and took the stand in her own defense. The Defendant testified that she did not steal anything from Publix and that it would have been impossible for her to take all the items alleged, because her purse was too small to hold such. The jury believed her testimony and acquitted her. The defense attorney's argument prevailed.

Months after the verdict, the defense attorney, Mr. Lauer, received the in-store, surveillance video from the incident (he was previously advised that it did not exist). Mr. Lauer watched the video and clearly saw the defendant stealing the items alleged by placing them into a very large bag. Upon seeing this, Mr. Lauer contacted the Florida Bar and asked for advice. The Bar instructed Mr. Lauer to inform all parties, including the tribunal, of the fraud perpetrated. Mr. Lauer did so and Ms. Furlong was subsequently charged with perjury.

While I was deeply offended by the defendant/lawyer committing perjury in my courtroom, I was also encouraged by Mr. Lauer's integrity. We all have encountered less than ethical attorneys in our careers, however, it is important to remember that there are attorneys, such as Greg Lauer, who take their oath very seriously and practice the law with great professionalism. This case signifies just how important that oath is, because without it, here, there would have been a grave miscarriage of justice.

For the remaining significant cases that I have personally tried, please refer to question # 30.

(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.

No.

(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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

None.

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.

During my father's re-election campaign, I recused myself from cases that were represented by his opponent.

I have also recused myself from cases represented by attorney, William Gelin.

MISCELLANEOUS:

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

Yes _____ No X If "Yes" what charges? _____

Where convicted? _____ Date of Conviction: _____

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

Yes _____ No X If "Yes" what charges? _____

Where convicted? _____ Date of Conviction: _____

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

Yes _____ No If "Yes" what charges? _____

Where convicted? _____ Date of Conviction: _____

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.

No.

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

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.

No.

37a. 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?

Yes No If no, please explain. _____

43b. Have you ever paid a tax penalty?

Yes No If yes, please explain what and why. _____

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

No.

HONORS AND PUBLICATIONS:

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

I am not published, however, I was a legal consultant for the book entitled "Justice for All," by Dr. Sherrie Bourg-Carter.

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

Honors received since being a judge include:

Recipient of the County Court Presidential Service Award- The "Off the Bench" program recognized those county court judges who volunteered at least four community service hours per month during the calendar year (2011-2012)

Cancer Survivor Honoree for the Miami Dolphins and Celebrity Cruises- Myself, and

other cancer survivors, were honored at Sun Life Stadium during their half-time presentation for successfully battling cancer (2010)

Recipient (representing the PACE Center for Girls and the Broward County Women's Lawyers Association) of the National Conference of Women's Bar Association 2008 Public Service Award. We received this honor in New York City during the Women's Bar Leadership Summit for our "Books and Breakfast Program." See question #48e for further details (2008)

Participant in the "Partnership between the 17th Judicial Circuit and Indian Trace Elementary School." This Partnership received a Merit Award during the Broward County Public Schools Community Involvement Award Ceremony (2007)

Honors received as an Assistant State Attorney include:

"Trial Convictor of 10-20-Lifer's" (February 2005)

"Trial Convictor of Prison Releasee Reoffenders" (March 2002)

"Trial Convictor of Habitual Offenders" (June 2000)

"Top Habitualizer" (April 2000)

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

Justice Teaching at PACE Center for Girls and Indian Trace Elementary School (2007-2008)

Speaker at the Department of Juvenile Justice's "Blueprint Commission," representing PACE Center for Girls and advocating juvenile prevention programs (2007)

Guest Speaker at the Rotary Club of Pompano Beach, regarding the status of the central courthouse (2008)

Panelist for "Practicing with Professionalism Panel Discussion on Ethics," sponsored by the Broward County Bar Association (2008)

Guest Speaker at the Broward County Women Lawyers Luncheon (2008)

Panelist for Emerge Broward- "Moving Leadership to the Next Dimension, Understanding the Political Process" (2008)

Panelist at the Broward County Bench-Bar Convention-"Pet Peeves of Judges" (2009)

Panelist at the Broward County Women Lawyers -"A View from the Bench" (2010)

Presiding Judge for the American Association for Justice's Student Trial Advocacy Competition (2012)

Lecture to the Broward County Traffic Hearing Officers- "No Wheel Witness" (2012)

Panelist on "Professionalism," sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Justice Unit and the Broward Bar's Young Lawyer Section (2012)

Speaker at Career Day at Harbordale Elementary School (2013)

Speaker at the Emerald Society's Installation Breakfast (2013)

47. Do you have a Martindale-Hubbell rating? Yes If so, what is it? ___ 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.

PACE Center for Girls- Board member since March of 2007

Florida Conference of County Court Judges- - In July of 2011, I was elected by my peers to serve as the 17th Circuit's Judicial Representative. In 2012, I was re-elected to serve a second term in this capacity.

The Florida Bar's Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee- Appointed by Incoming President, Eugene Pettis (2013-2016 term)

Broward County Bar Association- Current member. In 2007/2008, I served on the board as their Judicial Liaison. I was also on the Membership and the Bench/Bar Committees.

Young Lawyers' Section of the Broward Bar- Judicial Representative since July of 2012.

Broward County Women Lawyers' Association- Current member. In 2005, I served on the board.

Broward County Hispanic Bar Association- (2005)

T.J. Reddick- (2007)

17th Circuit's Nominating Committee for the Florida Bar's Pro Bono Award (2008)

Friends of Shippey House, Inc.- Board member on this not-for-profit entity which promotes the preservation of Fort Lauderdale's historic assets to be used for the public good (2012)

Canvassing Board for Special Elections in May of 2008 and April 2013

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.

Saint Anthony's Church- parishioner

Saint Anthony's School - volunteer

Active PTA member and volunteer in the Broward County public school system

The Hillsboro's Club- summer member

48c. List your hobbies or other vocational interests.

Most of my spare time is spent with my family. My children's activities keep my husband and me very busy.

However, I am also committed to staying fit and healthy. I exercise regularly and enjoy the opportunity to do so while supporting a worthwhile cause. In turn, I have participated in the following walks/races:

"Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk" - Annual Participant and Team Leader since 2008

Dan Marino's Foundation "Walk About Autism"- Virginia Shuman Young's team

Lauren Book's "Walk in My Shoes" for Victims of Sexual Assault- 2011-2013 participant

Mother's Against Drunk Driving "MADD Dash" 5K (2012)

4 Kids of South Florida "Big Cardio Event" 5K (2012)

Junior League's "Riverwalk Run" (2013)

Broward Victims' Rights Coalition "Run to Remember" 5K - I received a third place medal in this 5K race in 2012 and 2013.

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.

Professional Rule of Conduct 4-6.1 provides an exemption from pro bono legal services for members of the judiciary. I do, however, engage in several volunteer activities to help educate our youth about the court system. Of most significance, is my relationship with the Pace Center for Girls.

I donate a substantial amount of time to the Pace Center. Pace is a prevention program for at-risk girls throughout the state of Florida. The program's mission is to provide girls and young women the opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy. Statistics show that 90% of Pace participants remain crime-free a year after leaving the program.

In 2007, in conjunction with the Broward County Women Lawyers' Association, I helped to implement and have continued to participate in the "Books and Breakfast" program with girls from Pace. This book reading project involves women lawyers and judges going directly into the classroom and reading a novel with the girls. The program helps to enhance the girls' reading and public speaking skills and to overall improve their self-confidence. While sharing the book, the women and girls also share their own life experiences. This model program was awarded the National Foundation for Women's Bar Association Public Service and Outstanding Member Program Award in 2008.

In March of 2009, I teamed up with Indian Trace Elementary School and the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale to help establish an emergency food pantry for the Pace girls and their families, who were experiencing extreme financial hardship. At the time, there were 75 girls at Pace and 80% of them came from families living at or below the poverty level. The food bank helps to ensure that needy families in our community do not go hungry.

I remain a board member and an active volunteer at Pace. I have participated in Justice Teaching in Pace's classrooms. Bi-yearly, I organize fieldtrips to the courthouse for girls who are interested in the law so that they may see our justice system in action. These visits include presentations from women in all areas of the law, including policewomen, administrative assistants, lawyers and clerks. I hope to inspire at least one girl so that she may choose her future, rather than a life of crime and despair. I am firmly committed to the concept of prevention and "helping a girl who has lost her way find a path back to hope."

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

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

I have attended numerous Continuing Judicial Education programs. Every judge must complete a minimum of thirty approved credit hours every three years, including four hours of ethics. Most recently, in March of 2013, I attended the Civil County Fundamentals Program. Prior to that, my CJE hours were primarily in the area of criminal law and ethics.

- 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?

I have lectured at bar association conferences and continuing legal education programs, primarily in the area of ethics and criminal traffic offenses. Please see answer # 46 for details.

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



I have grown accustomed to people expressing their sympathy when they learn of these experiences. Of course, while I appreciate their concern, the truth is that these experiences have made me a stronger, better person. [REDACTED] has taught me the true meaning of unconditional love, patience and endurance. [REDACTED] gave me strength, determination and resolve. Sometimes it is through adversity that you learn the true character of a person. Every challenge presents an opportunity to grow. Every challenge overcome, builds strength.

I firmly believe that these experiences have also enhanced my ability on the bench. As a judge in criminal court, I am aware that those appearing before me are probably facing one of the most difficult challenges of their own lives. I have listened to the cries of victims who know what it is like to have a gun held to their head, mothers of drug-addicted children, and children themselves whose fathers were facing life in prison. Although I always rule in accordance with the law, I am empathic to their plights. I continually strive to be a considerate and fair judge, while giving each their opportunity to be heard. I strongly believe that pronouncing the law in a courteous and respectful manner enhances the integrity of the entire judicial process.

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

I believe that my proven ability to effectively manage a docket and my varied experience as a judge would make for a seamless transition for me to elevate to the circuit bench. From 2006 – 2012, I was assigned to a criminal division in county court. Over this seven-year period, I consistently maintained the lowest case count in all of county court. I have presided over approximately 200 trials, countless motions and thousands of cases. According to Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545 (b), "the trial judge shall take charge of all cases at an early stage in the litigation and shall control the progress of the case thereafter until the case is determined." I have applied this rule in my courtroom with the obvious understanding that attorneys must be afforded a reasonable time to prepare their cases. My observance of Rule 2.545(b) has allowed me to maintain a manageable docket, which serves to benefit all parties.

While serving as a county judge, I have also had the opportunity to preside over circuit cases. Through administrative order, I have volunteered to sit on a variety of circuit matters, including: felony, probate, juvenile, emergency shelter hearings and extraditions. In addition, I have been assigned as a Referee for the Florida Supreme Court on allegations of Florida Bar violations. These wide-ranging experiences have solidified my belief that I am ready to serve our community as a circuit court judge.

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.

In October and December of 2005, I applied to this Judicial Nominating Commission for a county court judicial seat. I was appointed to the bench by Governor Jeb Bush in December of 2005.

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

Below, I have re-written the exact answer that I gave to this JNC in 2005. I still believe each word and have worked hard to fulfill my pledge:

In evaluating my application, I believe that it would be helpful to convey my opinion on judicial restraint. The most important and sometimes the most difficult job that a sitting judge has is to simply follow the law. A judge cannot subvert the judicial process in an effort to advance their personal agenda or further their own political goals. Just as the U.S. Constitution is not a living breathing document, nor are the laws of this great State.

When Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was criticized for his originalist point of view, he responded, "Well, you and I probably don't agree about much about the world, so I'll tell you from now on I'll do whatever I want to do, when I want to do it, at whim and fancy, for the next forty plus years. Will that satisfy you?" Correspondingly, the citizens of Broward County do not need a sitting judge that becomes a legislature of one.

I will bring to the bench a mindset of judicial restraint. I will follow and not create law. I will respect the separation of powers. I will work hard for the citizens of our county with a level of sustained enthusiasm. In sum, I will help preserve and enhance the integrity of our system of justice by following the law, properly managing my docket, and treating all who come before me with respect and professionalism.

REFERENCES:

54. List the names, addresses and telephone numbers of ten persons who are in a position to comment on your qualifications for judicial position and of whom inquiry may be made by the Commission.

1. The Honorable Martin Bidwill



2. The Honorable Thomas Lynch





3. The Honorable Carlos Rebollo



4. Commissioner Chip LaMarca



5. Katherine Leach



6. Representative George Moraitis, Jr.



7. Michael J. Satz, Esq.



8. William Scherer, Esq.



9. Norman Tripp, Esq.



10. David Di Pietro, Esq.



Letters of Recommendation to be submitted separately

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 10th day of May, 2013.

Stacy Ross

Printed Name

Stacy Ross

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.