

# JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FORUM

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

PRESENTED BY THE NORTH TAMPA BAR ASSOCIATION

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Group 7

**BILL YANGER**

[Yangerforjudge.com](http://Yangerforjudge.com)



**What is the source of your value system?**

My parents instilled a sense of empathy, inclusion and humility in my sister and me from very early on. My mother (deceased) was a school teacher and later a principal here in Tampa and my father is still a practicing lawyer. I like to believe their sense of compassion and justice rubbed off on me.

**Why do you want to be a judge?**

I could spend the next 20 years practicing law and living a comfortable life. But I believe I have a unique opportunity to give back to the profession and the community that have given me so much. The judiciary is the natural progression of what I consider to be a respected and successful career in the law and I look forward to this next challenge.

**What have you done over the years to prepare yourself specifically for judicial service?**

Over my 34 years of litigation practice, I have appeared in front of perhaps thousands of judges in varying forums, from state court to federal state, civil and criminal, family law and bankruptcy, workers comp and administrative hearings. Each encounter provided lessons from the bench, many I will emulate and a few I certainly will not.

**What distinguishes you from the other candidates?**

As stated above I have a breadth of practice that quite starkly separates me from my opponents. One example: my significant federal court practice, including numerous complex jury trials before judges I consider to be role models in terms of temperament, work ethic and management of their docket and against attorneys at the top of their profession.

**How do you describe your temperament and personality?**

Fairness, adherence to the rule of law, respect for the litigants and particularly counsel, and prompt, thoughtful, determined, reasoned and supportable decision making. Importantly, as a judge I will never forget what it is like walking into the courtroom as a lawyer.

**What would make you a competent judge?**

While the transition from advocate to judge is a challenge, it is one faced by all new judges. I am confident 34 years of honing my professional craft before judges across the jurisdictional spectrum and against lawyers of every level of knowledge and skill has prepared me to competently wear the robe and serve the citizens of Hillsborough County.

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FORUM MODERATED BY ADRIA DICKEY & JARED KRUKAR

