

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FORUM

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

PRESENTED BY THE NORTH TAMPA BAR ASSOCIATION

13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Group 30

HELENE DANIEL

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What is the source of your value system?

My Mother taught me the importance of family and commitment. Honor and Integrity. I learned by example. She instilled in me the belief that with hard and honest work, all things are possible. She is my moral compass. The lessons she taught me about determination and commitment have stayed with me my entire life.

Why do you want to be a judge?

Serving as a judge is a privilege and the highest honor a lawyer can achieve. It is a serious job that comes with considerable responsibility. To serve on the bench is the culmination of my education and years of experience as a trial attorney and mediator. It is about serving the law, our profession and our community.

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

My wide ranging legal experience as a litigator and mediator have prepared me for judicial service. I've practiced mostly in circuit civil court. I have real courtroom experience. I've been a Certified Circuit Civil Mediator since 2001. Representing pro bono clients has also prepared me to serve all parties, fairly and without bias.

What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

My 33 years of experience practicing law sets me apart. I have proven courtroom experience I've handled hundreds of hearings, motions, discovery work and depositions. These form a significant foundation in serving on the bench competently. I'm AV-Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell, its highest rating for legal abilities and ethics.

How do you describe your temperament and personality?

Representing clients from all walks of life helped me develop a sensitivity and compassion for people. As a litigator, I advocate for my clients. As a mediator, I empower parties to resolve their disputes. People are not case numbers. Judges must have empathy while serving the law. As a judge I will treat all parties with respect and dignity.

What would make you a competent judge?

Over my 33 years practicing law, I've handled a variety of legal matters including medical malpractice, nursing home law, personal injury, insurance coverage, healthcare, probate, estate and guardianship, to name a few. My legal abilities and knowledge will allow me to serve competently.

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FORUM MODERATED BY ADRIA DICKEY & JARED KRUKAR

