

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FORUM

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

PRESENTED BY THE NORTH TAMPA BAR ASSOCIATION

13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Group 9

JOHN ALLEN SCHIFINO

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What is the source of your value system?

My parents are two of the most honorable people I know. They taught me to engage in my profession with humility, integrity, compassion, and determination. I've tried to do exactly that. Also, I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to serve my community and profession. This desire to serve was instilled in me by my parents.

Why do you want to be a judge?

I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to serve my community and my profession. I decided that serving as a judge would be a challenging and fulfilling way to continue to serve. I see our bench as a sacred institution that safeguards our form of government and defends the rule of law. It would be a privilege to be part of it.

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

I've had the good fortune to take many cases to trial. Most involved complicated issues, and many involved juries. This trial experience would serve me well if elected to the bench. I've also served my community and my profession for many years, and this desire to serve would also assist me if elected to the bench.

What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

Through my jury trial experience, I've earned a reputation as a hardworking, smart, and professional attorney. In 2019, I received the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Professionalism Award, and in 2017, I received HAWL's Professionalism Award. I'm AV rated, and am regularly listed in Best Lawyers, Super Lawyers, and Florida Trend's Legal Elite.

How do you describe your temperament and personality?

Over my 25 years of practice, I've earned a reputation as a lawyer who has a great deal of respect for our branch of government and for my colleagues on the bench and in the bar, and I practice with a dedication to professionalism. My temperament is calm and even, and my personality is collegial, approachable, and thoughtful.

What would make you a competent judge?

I've practiced in many areas of law over my career. This broad range of experience would benefit me if I'm elected to the bench. I've also taken many cases to trial. I've earned a reputation as a hardworking, smart, and professional lawyer. I believe this trial experience, and my work ethic, would also translate well to the bench.

JULY 9, 2020

FORUM MODERATED BY ADRIA DICKEY & JARED KRUKAR

