

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FORUM

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

PRESENTED BY THE NORTH TAMPA BAR ASSOCIATION

13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Group 19

JUDGE MICHAEL J. SCIONTI

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What is the source of your value system?

The core values that guide my life and decision-making -- honesty, integrity and trustworthiness -- were instilled in me at an early age by my parents and later influenced by the guidance and wisdom found within the teachings and practice of my faith as a catholic.

Why do you want to be a judge?

I currently serve as a Circuit Court Judge and have served our community and country for 25 years upholding the rule of law in and out of the courtroom and on and off the battlefield. I hope to continue my judicial service guaranteeing the fair and impartial administration of justice and ensuring that everyone is treated equally under the law.

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

Over the course of my 25 years of service as a lawyer and judge, I have gained extensive knowledge and experience in the practice of law and have been a good steward of the legal profession. The extent and nature of this experience has brought balance and clarity of thought to my decision-making as I carry out my judicial duties.

What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

I currently serve as a Circuit Court Judge, presiding over Juvenile Delinquency and Veterans Treatment Courts, and formerly served as a Military Magistrate. I believe the depth and breadth of my legal and judicial experience, spanning 25 years at the trial and appellate level and in state and federal court, is what best distinguishes my candidacy.

How do you describe your temperament and personality?

I am open-minded, patient and flexible, and have an outgoing, friendly and approachable personality.

What would make you a competent judge?

As a Circuit Court Judge, I perform my duties and responsibilities with the highest level of integrity, demonstrate a strong understanding of the law, and apply a fair-minded, common sense approach to my decision-making. I currently represent our local judiciary, maintaining the highest standards of personal and professional conduct.

JULY 9, 2020

FORUM MODERATED BY ADRIA DICKEY & JARED KRUKAR

