

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FORUM

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

PRESENTED BY THE NORTH TAMPA BAR ASSOCIATION

13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Group 31

SCOTT BONAVIDA

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What is the source of your value system?

The source is years of life experience. From a young age my parents instilled in me the values of honesty and integrity. In my teen years, playing high level competitive soccer, I learned the value of hard work. Later, when I became a father, I learned the value and importance of family. Honesty, integrity, hard work, and family.

Why do you want to be a judge?

1. I want to use my knowledge, experience, skillset, temperament, and work ethic to serve and make a positive difference in our community; 2. I am passionate about the independence of the judiciary and the fair and equal treatment of all people under the law, and I want to be a leading force for a positive change in this regard.

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

I have never intentionally done anything specific to "prepare" for service. However, over the years I have gained invaluable experience. Through sports I learned hard work, leadership, and sportsmanship. As an attorney and mediator, I gained organizational and dispute resolution skills. As a father I have learned love, compassion, and empathy.

What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

The breadth of my experience and my passion for the independence of the judiciary. In my 18-year career I have handled cases in over 15 different practice areas. I have had a solo law practice since 2012 and been a full-time single father since 2009. I have not accepted support from political groups, politicians, special interests, or law firms.

How do you describe your temperament and personality?

I am humble, honest, caring, passionate, open minded, calm and clear thinking in very difficult situations, and empathetic, but firm when needed. Most people consider me to be a leader and say that I have a "presence" when around me. I set high standards for myself both personally and professionally and endeavor to bring the best out of myself.

What would make you a competent judge?

I am experienced, honest, hardworking, committed to justice and equal treatment of all people, open-minded, compassionate and empathetic, courteous, decisive, and firm and tough when needed. I am free from bias and owe no "favors" and have accepted no contributions or endorsements from political groups, politicians, special interests, or law firms.

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FORUM MODERATED BY ADRIA DICKEY & JARED KRUKAR

