

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FORUM

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

PRESENTED BY THE NORTH TAMPA BAR ASSOCIATION

13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Group 39

WENDY JOY DEPAUL

Wendydepaul4judge.com



What is the source of your value system?

My value system was formed as a mix of morals, ethics, and common sense instilled in me by my family, faith, and life experiences. A value system is a living, breathing thing that changes as you grow.

Why do you want to be a judge?

I want to be a judge because I want to make sure that everyone has their day in court, and is treated fairly and impartially, and with respect and dignity regardless of who they are or where they come from. I want to work to make the court system more accessible to the public to bring pro se litigants information on available resources.

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

I have spent countless hours in courtrooms over 23 years of practicing law, seeing how judges are handling dockets and treating litigants and attorneys. I have been very involved in my community through volunteerism, which allows me to be aware of the totality of circumstances when evaluating a case. I have also volunteered as a Hearing Officer.

What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

I have worked with many pro se litigants and have taken pro bono cases, and understand how overwhelming a lawsuit can be for them. I want to make sure that litigants understand what is going on in the courtroom, and making sure they get help when they need it.

How do you describe your temperament and personality?

I am fairly calm and level headed, I do not get angry easily. I am also kind to people in the courtroom. I understand that all people need to have the opportunity to speak and state their position. I have a warm and engaging personality which I believe puts people at ease.

What would make you a competent judge?

I have 23 years of experience as an attorney and earned my CPA certificate 25 years ago. I have practiced many areas of law in that time and have plenty of courtroom experience. I believe in being fair and equitable and following the law.

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FORUM MODERATED BY ADRIA DICKEY & JARED KRUKAR

