

## County Court Candidates

42 candidates are running for 20 different judicial races on August 24, some of them incumbent judges who in the past were largely unchallenged.

Some judges are elected and others are appointed. Appointed judges must be elected every 6 years.

Candidates can talk about their background and qualifications but are not allowed to talk about their politics, specific cases or issues like the death penalty.

Here is a list of the candidates:

### Group 1: County Court Judge,

John D. Fry

John Robert Howes

Jason Allen Rosner

### Group 3: County Court Judge,

Peter Barry Skolnik

Debra L. Steinsaltz

### Group 4: County Court Judge

Lloyd Harris Golburgh

Edward H. Merrigan, Jr.

### Group 7: County Court Judge

Gisele Pollack *unopposed*

### Group 8: County Court Judge

Gary R. Cowart *unopposed*

### Group 12: County Court Judge

Melissa Beth Minsk Donoho

John "Jay" Hurley

### Group 13: County Court Judge

Heidi Berkowitz

Linda R. Pratt

### Group 14 County Court Judge

Jordan Howard Breslaw

Mary Rudd Robinson

### Group 15: County Court Judge

Roshawn Banks

Mindy Solomon

### Group 17 County Court Judge

Eric Marc Beller *unopposed*

### Group 20: County Court Judge

Kenneth "Ken" Gottlieb

Mark W. Rickard

Steven Schae

### Group 21: County Court Judge

Martin R. Dishowitz *unopposed*

### Group 22: County Court Judge

Lisa Gail Trachman *unopposed*

### Group 26: County Court Judge,

Mardi Anne Levey Cohen

Nathaniel Adam "Nate" Klitsberg

Olga M. Levine

F. J. McLawrence



*The Role of Judges*

Many criminal cases - and almost all civil ones - are heard by a judge sitting without a jury. Judges are like umpires in baseball or referees in football or basketball. Their role is to see that the rules of court procedures are followed by both sides. Like the ump, they call 'em as they see 'em, according to the facts and law. Judges must ignore what the spectators want, and follow the law whether they agree with it or not.

Judges play many roles. They interpret the law, assess the evidence presented, and control how hearings and trials unfold in their courtrooms. Most important of all, judges are impartial decision-makers pursuing justice. They also sign arrests and warrants.

Legal cases are contests between opposing sides. Evidence and legal arguments are fully and forcefully presented. The judge, however, remains above the fray, providing an independent and impartial assessment of the facts and how the law applies to those facts.

Judges are elected or appointed.

## What Does a Judge Do?

## The August 24 Judicial Race: Why it Matters to You.

### Why should I vote for judges?

Judges make lots of decisions that affect us personally, even if we aren't involved personally in a court case. Judicial decisions have wide impact and usually last for a long time. Voting for qualified judges helps keep our courts impartial and fair.

### Does it really matter if I vote for judges?

Absolutely! Judges make decisions about fundamental issues that affect all of us (family life, education, health care, housing, employment, discrimination, civil rights, public safety, etc.), and those decisions can have long-lasting impact. Judges must know the law, be independent, and be free from external political and economic influences. Voting for qualified judges really does protect the courts – for all of us!

## Circuit Court Candidates

- **17th Circuit** – Judge Kenneth L. Gillespie and Oliver Parker filed for the Group 2 seat. Alan B. Schneider and Judge Elijah H. Williams filed for the Group 4 seat. Frieda M. Goldstein and Judge Carlos A. Rodriguez filed for the Group 6 seat. Judge Susan Lebow and Jill Tamkin Refilovich filed for Group 9. Judge Matthew Isaac Destry and Robert Abraham Jakovich filed for Group 15. Robert "Bob" Nichols and Judge Carlos Rebollo filed for Group 22. Alan Bernstein and Judge Barbara Ann McCarthy filed for Group 23. Olga Levine and Judge John T. (Jack) Luzzo filed for Group 17; Judge Lisa Porter, and Laura Renee Seidman filed in Group 47; Sandra Perlman and Lee Jay Seidman filed in Group 51; Judge Eileen M. O'Connor and Rhoda Sokoloff filed for Group 53. Susan F. Greenhawt, Hope Bristol-Tieman, William W. "Bill" Haury, Jr., Cynthia G. Imperato, and Michael Gates, all incumbents, were elected without opposition.

# You CAN Get Out of Jail. Read This

## WAYS TO GET OUT OF JAIL

The object of bail is to make sure a defendant appears whenever he is directed to do so by a judge.

After a person has been arrested and booked in Florida, he or she has five options to be released from Jail.

### 1. Own Recognizance (ROR)

A defendant is released without posting money or any kind of bond. Generally a staff member conducts an interview with the arrestee and makes a recommendation to the court that the arrestee is likely to make all appearances. The arrestee is then released and expected to be true to his/her word regarding court appearances. When you are "ROR'd" you are released on your own recognizance.

### 2. Citation

The arresting officer issues a citation to the arrestee informing the arrestee that he/she must appear at an appointed date and time in court. A cite out, is similar to an Own Recognizance release in that the arrestee is expected to be true to his/her word regarding court appearances.

**Your attorney is your best guide when it comes to getting out of jail.**

### 3. Cash Bond

Someone is expected to post the full dollar amount of the bail, in cash, to secure the release of the arrestee. If the arrestee makes all the appearances the cash is refunded to the depositor.

### 4. Surety Bond

A bail agent guarantees to the court that the bail bond forfeiture will be paid in full if the arrestee fails to appear for scheduled court appearances. Typically the bail agent will charge 10% of the total bond for this service. Generally a bail agent looks for two criteria's - either property to secure the bond or establish community ties by interviewing family and friends.

### 5. Property Bond

Rarely done - the court may accept property as a means of securing the release of the arrestee.

## Public Defender or Private Attorney



*Many private attorneys started as public defenders.*

### Why Should I Pay to Hire a Private Attorney?

If you can afford to hire a private attorney do so. Public Defenders are paid to represent people who cannot afford to hire a private attorney.

Can I represent myself? Should I represent myself? The court is a scary place for the untrained. There is an old joke, "One who represents himself, has a fool for a client." The courtroom is not for the untrained. Why take a chance?

A good lawyer can do everything possible to protect you and minimize the impact of the case on you in all areas of your life. You should at least consult with an experienced criminal defense lawyer, someone that has experience representing people accused of similar charges. Every case is unique and you deserve an advocate fighting in your corner.

Are there more advantages to hiring a private lawyer vs. using a public defender?

**Caseload.** A private attorney has your case to go to court on while the public defenders typically have many of the cases on the calendar that day and everyday, so it is almost impossible to give the personal attention that a private lawyer can—the personal attention you need at this time in your life.

**Familiarity.** You will speak to and meet the attorney that will handle your case the first time you call us, but you cannot choose the public defender you get, and you may get a different one every time you show up to court.

**Reputation.** We survive on our reputation. We want you to be so happy that you can't wait to tell your friends about your great attorney.

**Experience.** Before Eric Schwartzreich was a private attorney he spent years as a public defender.

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR TAKEN TO A POLICE STATION BECAUSE YOU'RE A MINORITY**

\*You have the right to remain silent and to talk to a lawyer before you talk to the police. \*Tell the police nothing except your name and address. Don't give any explanations, excuses or stories. You can make your defense later, in court, based on what you and your lawyer decide is best.

\*Ask to see a lawyer immediately. If you can't pay for a lawyer, you have a right to a free one, and should ask the police how the lawyer can be contacted. Don't say anything without a lawyer.

\*Within a reasonable time after your arrest, or booking, you have the right to make a local phone call: to a lawyer, bail bondsman, a relative or any other person. The police may not listen to the call to the lawyer.

Sometimes you can be released without bail, or have bail lowered. Have your lawyer ask the judge about this possibility. You must be taken before the judge on the next court day after arrest.

Do not make any decisions in your case until you have talked with a lawyer.

**Free Consultations  
24 hours 7 days**

**Ft. Lauderdale Office  
954-525-8000**

**Speak to a Lawyer After Hours  
954-873-8228**

**Toll Free 1-888-825-8001**



## **DO POLICE ARREST MINORITIES MORE OFTEN THAN THEY ARREST OTHERS?**

Racial profiling is when some police use race or ethnic background as reason to stop, question or arrest someone.

This is not the same as when race or ethnicity is part of identifying a specific suspect for a specific crime. That is often confused with the more comprehensive offender profiling. Racial profiling has become particularly controversial in the United States because it violates civil rights.

The Rand Corporation did a study on this issue. These are a few things they found:

\*African-American drivers are more likely to get pulled over than white drivers -- but they're also more likely to be driving in the high-crime neighborhoods that police patrol more intensively.

\*Once pulled over, African-American drivers are more three times more likely to have longer traffic stops, with more frequent searches and longer questioning. But when police do search, they're also slightly more likely to find contraband -- guns and drugs -- on black drivers, suggesting that the searches aren't completely unwarranted.

\*Officers -- especially white officers -- are less likely to leave the conversation with a black driver on a courteous, pleasant note. But black drivers, too, are less apologetic and less cooperative than white drivers.

\*If you think you have been wrongly treated, contact your lawyer.