



## BROWARD COUNTY HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION

### JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Full Name:

Barbara Roseann Duffy

2. Current County of residence.

Broward

3. Date and place of birth.

August 24, 1965 – Fort Lauderdale, Florida

4. Does your campaign have a website or Facebook page? If so, please list it.

Duffyforjudge.com

<https://www.facebook.com/BarbaraDuffyForJudge/>

5. List the colleges and law schools you have attended, including your dates of attendance and degrees awarded.

North Carolina Wesleyan 1983-1985

Florida State University 1985-1987 – BS

Nova Law School 1987-1990 -- JD

6. Have you ever served in the military?

No

7. List where you have been employed since graduation from law school, including dates employed, your position and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

Broward County SAO 1990-1994



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**Broward County PBA 1994-2012**

**AFSCME Local 2432 2012-2015**

**Barbara Duffy P.A.**

**8. Have you ever been arrested? Explain.**

**No**

**9. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Explain.**

**No**

**10. What is the general nature of your practice? Indicate areas of practice in which you concentrate or concentrated?**

**Criminal – Labor/Employment – Administrative**

**11. If you are currently a judge, what type of cases do you typically preside over in your court?**

**N/A**

**12. If you are currently a judge, have any of your decisions ever been appealed and overturned? How many times in the last two (2) years? When and what case?**

**N/A**

**13. What percentage of your litigation or trial experience was related to:**

**a. Civil?**

**b. Criminal? 100%**

**(However, if Labor Arbitration is included the answer would be Criminal – 40% and Labor Arbitration – 60%)**

**14. How many cases have you tried to verdict?**

**Over 100**

**15. Describe three of the most significant litigated matters, which you personally handled and give the citations thereto, if the cases were reported.**

**Corpion v. Jenne, 869 So.2d 660 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 2004)**

**Cochran v. Broward County PBA, 693 So.2d 134 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 1997)**



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### Barber v. Interim Report of the Grand Jury, 689 So.2d 1182 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 1997)

#### **16. Why do you want to be a judge (circuit or county)?**

Because the public perception of unfairness in the court system has got to be changed. I will make that change by issuing rulings that are fair, impartial and reasoned that I will be capable of standing behind, and by treating every person with respect and common courtesy. Additionally, as a litigant I can only help one person at a time. As a judge, I will be in a position to help every person who partakes in the court process.

#### **17. What qualities do you believe are most important in a judge? Explain how you have demonstrated that you possess those qualities.**

Integrity, compassion, respectfulness and experience. During my 26 year legal career I have strived to obtain justice for each and every client I have represented and I have done so with zeal, but in an honest and respectful manner. Unfortunately, I have been witness to too many instances of bias, ignorance and/or arrogance as well as a complete lack of respect for the people involved and the legal process itself. Having experienced first-hand the faults in the process, I understand the necessity of creating an environment where all people are treated fairly, impartially, compassionately and with respect. I believe that the work I've completed throughout my career evidences the fact that I possess the traits necessary to implement the changes needed to alter the public's perception of injustice in the courts.

#### **18. Why do you believe that you are the best candidate for the seat you are running for?**

I am the more well-rounded person in my race. During my 26 year career I've handled Criminal matters, Civil matters, Family matters, Administrative matters and Appellate matters. I have tried hundreds of cases, handled caseloads in the hundreds and understand the work ethic needed to ensure I have knowledge of each and every case. Additionally, given my experience in the different legal arenas, I understand the importance of ensuring that every person who enters a courtroom is treated with respect. I will issue rulings that are fair, impartial, compassionate and well-reasoned and I guarantee that I will be in the courtroom to handle cases any time I require a person to appear in that courtroom.



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19. Describe your civic activities and community involvement for the past five (5) years, listing what years you participated in each activity or were involved.

Raising my nephew, Steven to be the honest, respectful, hard-working young man he is today as well as mentoring and taking care of his incredibly diverse group of friends, many of whom I took into my home at some point in their lives when they needed my help.

20. Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.

See above answer

21. Please list the federal and state courts where you are admitted to practice.

Florida

22. How many times did you take the Florida Bar Exam?

Once

23. Have you ever failed Bar exams in any state? If so, when and where?

No

24. Have you ever been investigated by a State Bar grievance committee or by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct?

No

25. Have you ever been disciplined or reprimanded for your conduct as a lawyer or judge? If the answer is yes, please explain?

No

26. Have you or your law firm ever been sued by a client? If so, please explain.

No

27. Please discuss your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.

The capability to treat every person courteously and with respect by demonstrating that the judge truly cares about the case before her/him and by deciding cases and making rulings fairly and impartially, based solely upon the facts of each case and the applicable law.



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- 28. If you are seeking election or re-election to a criminal court, discuss your view of plea bargains and when they should and should not be accepted.**

Plea bargains are a significant tool in the criminal process and they should be accepted unless a question arises as to the Defendant's ability to understand and comprehend the significance of the bargained for sentence. Another area of concern with plea bargains may arise in cases involving victims. In those cases, the bargained for pleas should be accepted when the victim is in agreement. If the victim is not in agreement, the plea should be accepted if it is legally appropriate under the sentencing guidelines.

- 29. Tell us about any plans you have to improve the administration of the court or make it more efficient.**

Ensure the level of productivity of judges and staff are such that time and money spent resolving cases is reduced while also ensuring that each case is given appropriate attention.

- 30. Have you ever taught any law school courses or any continuing legal education courses? If so, describe the extent and nature of those teaching experiences.**

No

- 31. List any significant pro bono work completed since graduating from law school.**

I have represented and advised many people, who don't qualify for Legal Aid yet cannot financially afford to hire an attorney, in criminal, traffic and employment related matters.

- 32. List any leadership positions, or participation in any committees in voluntary bar associations and/or professional societies, which you believe to be of particular significance (e.g. judicial selection committees, disciplinary committees, grievance committees, etc.).**

N/A

- 33. List all organizations and associations, or professional societies, other than bar associations, of which you are or have been a member, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social, and fraternal organizations.**

Emerald Society; The Hundred Club; FSU Alumni Association

- 34. What is your judicial philosophy?**

To be an honest, hard-working jurist who renders reasoned decisions and who treats everyone with courtesy and respect.



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**35. Describe what contributions you have made to the Hispanic community in the past five (5) years.**

I have represented numerous Hispanic law enforcement officers in criminal, administrative and labor/employment matters.

**36. Are you a Member of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association?**

No

**37. As a prospective judge, or as a current Judge, what do you consider your greatest strengths and weaknesses?**

Strengths – Integrity, compassion, respectfulness, work ethic and experience.

**38. Why are you the best candidate for the position you are seeking?**

See response to question 18.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BROWARD COUNTY HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND COOPERATION!**