



BROWARD COUNTY HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Full Name: Stephen J. Zaccor

2. Current County of residence. Broward

3. Date and place of birth. 9/15/71 Copiague, New York

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

www.campaignjudgezaccor.com

facebook.com/judgezaccor

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

Hofstra University, 1989-1991. Florida Atlantic University, 1991-1994, B.A. Criminal Justice.
Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law, 1995-1998, J.D.

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.

Robert Dolman, P.A. Legal intern for criminal defense lawyer while studying for the Florida Bar.

Broward State Attorney's Ofc. 1998-2015. All phases of criminal prosecution including investigation, discovery, and trial work. Supervisor in County and Circuit Court. Member of the hiring committee and trained attorneys in various aspects of trial advocacy

8. Have you ever been arrested? Explain. No.

9. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Explain. No.



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

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

County civil cases including personal injury, small claims, landlord tenant, insurance disputes, foreclosure, construction liens, commercial litigation, collections, and post-judgment enforcement.

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? Appealed, yes. Not yet affirmed or overturned.

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

a. Civil?

b. Criminal? 100%

14. How many cases have you tried to verdict? Approximately 150 as a lawyer.

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

State of Florida v. Randy W. Tundidor (10-006496CF10A); Home invasion murder case where a professor at Nova University was slain in his home. Case was featured on Dateline NBC. Many legal and social issues present in the case. I was co-counsel and penalty phase lawyer. The Defendant was convicted and sentenced to death by a unanimous verdict.

State of Florida v. James Herard (09-004654CF10A); Mr. Herard was one of five defendants who were all members of the “Crips” street gang. Mr. Herard personally shot ten people during the course of various robberies and gang related activities. He killed one person and was involved in the killing of another due to a contest to see who amongst the gang could kill the most people, or “get the most bodies.” He was convicted and sentenced to death.

State of Florida v. Elton Walters (09-018637CF10A); Convicted of raping, nearly decapitating, and murdering a 93 year old woman.

16. Why do you want to be a judge (circuit or county)? I have been a County Judge for 1 ½ years. My entire career has been in the courtroom. I enjoy being in a courtroom and feel at home there. My experience as a trial lawyer has translated very nicely to the bench. I still serve the



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public, just in a different fashion. It is an honor to not only be a part of the process, but to make sure the process works by being impartial, prepared, and dedicated.

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

A judge must be impartial and neutral. Political, personal, and social views must come second to the law. A Judge must lead by example when it comes to preparedness, demeanor, and respect for the litigants. I strive every day to fit this description. I know what it was like to be a lawyer appearing before an ill-prepared, tardy, and intemperate judge. I will never be that judge.

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

I have the experience as a Judge and as a trial lawyer that cannot be matched by my challenger. I am a graduate of Judicial College, Advanced Judicial College, and have successfully completed many hours of Continuing Judicial Education. I have been the Chairperson of the County Canvassing Board and worked with the Supervisor of Elections overseeing the March 2016 Presidential Preference Primary Election. I am endorsed by The Hispanic Vote, AFL-CIO, P.B.A., F.O.P, Broward Professional Firefighters, and The Puerto Rican Bar Assoc.

- 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.**

Lector at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church, youth soccer coach for Weston F.C.

- 20. Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.**

Personal: Married for 17+ years to Marcie Zaccor with three children ages 15, 13, & 4.

Professional: Aside from a very successful career as a trial lawyer, I was selected to testify before the Justice Committee of the Canadian Parliament regarding proposed legislation patterned after Florida's 10-20-Life law.

I was asked to be one of four Judicial Liaisons to the Broward County Bar Assoc.'s Young Lawyers' Section.

- 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.**



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- 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. N/A**
- 27. Please discuss your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.**

As a Judge, I am the face of the court system. If I am polite, professional, courteous, and treat all who come before me with dignity and respect, then those who appear before me, both lawyer and non-lawyer, are more likely to behave similarly.

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

Simply put, show up on time and put in a full day. Have ample trial and hearing time available.
- 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.**

Taught trial skills (*voir dire*, evidence, etc.) at the State Attorney's Ofc.
- 31. List any significant pro bono work completed since graduating from law school.**

As an Asst. State Attorney I was prohibited by statute from pro bono work.

- 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.).**

Judicial Liaison to the Broward County Bar Assoc.'s Young Lawyers' Section.
- 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.**

Tau Kappa Epsilon



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34. What is your judicial philosophy?

To be an impartial jurist who treats all those who appear before him, no matter their race, gender, or ethnicity, with dignity and respect, and to be a faithful servant to the law.

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

Involvement in Catholic Charities and as a resident of S.W. Broward County coaching youth sports.

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: Knowledge, experience, demeanor, and work ethic.

Weaknesses: Campaigning.

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

I have the experience as a Judge and as a trial lawyer that cannot be matched by my challenger. I am a graduate of Judicial College, Advanced Judicial College, and have successfully completed many hours of Continuing Judicial Education. I have been the Chairperson of the County Canvassing Board and worked with the Supervisor of Elections overseeing the March 2016 Presidential Preference Primary Election. I am endorsed by The Hispanic Vote, AFL-CIO, P.B.A., F.O.P, Broward Professional Firefighters, The Puerto Rican Bar Assoc., and the Sun-Sentinel. To quote from the Sun-Sentinel endorsement: "By all accounts, he has done an outstanding job;" "Zaccor wins our endorsement because he has proven that he has the experience, temperament and work ethic that's needed to run a fair and efficient courtroom."

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