



## BROWARD COUNTY HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION

### JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Full Name: Kim Theresa Mollica – Candidate for Broward County Judge – Group 14,  
Open Seat

2. Current County of residence. I reside in Broward County.

3. Date and place of birth. Fort Lauderdale, Florida. March 28, 1963

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

Website: [www.kim4judge.com](http://www.kim4judge.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kim4judge/>

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

Graduated St. John's University, Queens, New York (1987) – Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration

St. Thomas University, School of Law, Miami, Florida (12/1989) – J.D. degree,

I graduated Law School in 2 ½ years.

Have you ever served in the military? No.

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

*Kim T. Mollica, P.A., Private Practice for over 23 years (1993 – present) – Criminal (Felony and Misdemeanor jury and non-jury trials), Family law including divorce, paternity, child custody, modification, contempt, pre-nuptial, post-nuptials, domestic*



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violence, step-parent adoption, landlord tenant, personal injury, probate, multi-state litigation for class action, federal deportation cases, appeals, and various other civil matters.

*Public Defender's Office, Assistant Public Defender (1990-1992), 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Martin and St. Lucie County), Felony, Misdemeanor, Mental Health and Juvenile Divisions*

*State Attorney's Office, Certified Legal Intern (1989), 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Dade County), Juvenile Division*

7. Have you ever been arrested? Explain.

No.

8. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Explain.

No.

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

Presently Family Law, Domestic Violence and Civil. I have extensive experience in criminal law, and have practiced in Federal Court, and see paragraph 6 responses above.

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

Not applicable.

11. 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?

Not applicable.

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

a. Civil? 50%

b. Criminal? 50%

13. How many cases have you tried to verdict?



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**75+ in criminal (jury and non-jury), 100+ in civil/family (jury and non-jury). I do not know the exact amount as I stopped counting after a while. Many of my cases have been high conflict and complex.**

**My longest trial was 9 days long.**

**I have conducted 100's of hearings, some have lasted for days, and was longer than some trials I had.**

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

**All of my cases are equally important. If I had to describe 3, it would be as follows:**

- a. A high conflict and complex case where a child died during the litigation, and the sibling was removed by a parent to the West Coast of the United States.**
- b. A high conflict case and complex case where each parent had supervised timesharing, and there was a 9 day trial of every issue imaginable in a family law case, and numerous hearings beforehand, involving guardian ad litem, investigators, and several expert witnesses.**
- c. A high conflict pro bono case and still ongoing, for post judgment issues of custody, child support, and injunctions for protection of domestic violence. I started this case in 1999 and it is still active.**

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

**I went to law school to help people. I feel it is important to give back to others. I am now at the pinnacle of my career of 26 years, where I have practiced around the State of Florida in many different courtrooms, practicing in many different areas of the law. I have seen what has worked and not worked. I want to bring my 26 years of experience of practicing throughout the State of Florida to Broward County. I believe in giving back to our community and I strongly believe in public service.**

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

**Compassion, Respect, Patience, Listening, Learning, Knowledge of the law and applying the law to the facts of each case, being a people person and making decisions promptly and easily understood by all. I have demonstrated that I am highly qualified and possess those qualities because of my personal and legal experiences, knowledge**



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of the law, ability to listen, compassion and patience. I know that walking into a courtroom is stressful, and I promise to be compassionate, listen, and be respectful.

I have a vast amount of experience of representing clients during a highly charged emotional time in their life, whether being arrested or going through a family law matter (divorce, custody dispute, restraining order, etc.). I understand the importance that a judge's decisions have on a person's life, as I have witnessed first hand with my clients, opposing parties and witnesses.

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

I have the most experience of 26+ years, and most life experience, and I am the only candidate in my race who is AV Preeminent rated, in addition to other ratings, awards and accolades I have received, and I have the broadest and most well rounded background, in that I have practiced in many different areas of the law and I have litigated complex cases. I am not seeking this position for an increase in income.

In addition, I have conducted mediations (alternate dispute resolution) at the request of my opposing counsel, because they stated I was knowledgeable in the law, had a good temperament and demeanor. Again, as stated above, I want to bring my 26 years of complex litigation experience to Broward County. I am a people's person and County Court deals mostly with pro se litigants. I have the knowledge, the perspective and concept of pro-se litigants (a person representing themselves), as I was a Committee Member of The Florida Bar Family Law Rules Committee, which committee is responsible for the creation and modifications of the family law forms, that pro-se litigants use in Court in a family law matter, which are approved by the Supreme Court of Florida. I have always worked very hard and long hours until my job is finished, and I will work even hard when I am elected. No matter how crowded the docket is, I will be the Judge that turns the lights on in the courthouse in the morning and work as late as reasonable. I will allow everyone the opportunity to be heard, and explain my decision swiftly and in understandable terms that everyone is able to understand.

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

I have participated in many civic activities and community events that I did not write down for future reference because I was participating just to help someone, and make life easier for them.



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**As for the activities and community involvement I remember are:**

**\*Past Panel Member and Panel Chair, appointed by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners to the *Consumer Protection Board* (2011-2016)**

**\*Past Committee member and past Chairperson of a subcommittee of the *Florida Bar Family Law Rules Committee*, 2008-2011**

**\*Pro Bono Attorney, *Attorney Network for the United States Department of U.S.***

***Central Authority on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, 2008-present**

**Pro Bono Attorney for *Mission United Veterans, Pro Bono Legal Project*, 2014-present**

**\*Past Board of Trustees, *House of Hope/Stepping Stones*, 2009-2010, 2013-2014**

**(treatment facility - alternative to incarcerating someone with an addiction)**

**\*Pro Bono cases in private practice since 1993.**

**\*Volunteer Judge for the American Legion Veterans (Oratorical Contest) 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016**

**\*Volunteer Moot Court Judge for Teens (I do not recall exact years)**

**\*Speaker at Broward County Paralegal's Association for "Recent Changes in the Law, Statutes and Practices", 2009**

**\*Volunteer for Law Day several years (I do not recall exact years)**

**\*Volunteer for Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Church, 2015**

**\*Former foster parent and surrogate mother and mentor for Exchange Students on weekends at North Broward Preparatory School, 2009-2014**

**\*St. Coleman Catholic Church, parishioner**

**19. Please list noteworthy professional or personal accomplishments.**

**U.S. Department of State, Office of Children's Issues, United States Central Authority for the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Certificate of Appreciation For Your Efforts as a Hague Convention Attorney Network, 2014**



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**Award Volunteer Judge for The American Legion – High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016**

**Guest Speaker Certificate of Appreciation, Paralegal Association of Florida / Broward County Chapter, “Recent Changes in Florida Law, Statutes and Practices”, 2009**

**South Florida Top Rated Lawyers, Legal Leaders, 2012**

**Florida Superlawyers, Superlawyers Magazine, 2015 to present**

**AV Preeminent Rated Martindale-Hubbell, 2011 to present**

**Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers – Martindale-Hubbell, 2014**

**Client Distinction Award – Martindale-Hubbell, 2014**

**AVVO rated 10.0 out of 10, 2015, 2016**

**Special Commendation (Bronze Level) for Pro Bono Work from the Legal Aid**

**Society of Palm Beach County, The Florida Supreme Court and the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association, 2005**

**Certificate of Appreciation, Speaking Engagement, Nova Southeastern University, 2004**

**Certificate of Appreciation, as Chairperson of the Criminal Practice Committee of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association, 1996**

**Association of Trial Lawyers of America “ATLA”, Certificate of Achievement as a Tribute to the Relentless Pursuit of Excellence for Leadership & Service to ATLA New Lawyer’s Division and For Public Service Performed in a Manner Exceeding the Highest Standards of Our Profession, 1994**

**Private Pilot**

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

**State: The Florida Bar since 1990**

**Federal: United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, since 1993**

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

**I took The Florida Bar Exam one (1) time, and I graduated law school in 2.5 years.**



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

**No.**

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

**No.**

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

**No.**

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

**No.**

**26. Please discuss your view/opinion of proper judicial temperament.**

**My view of judicial temperament is to: have patience, listen, respect everyone regardless of their background, no matter how someone acts in a courtroom, and it would be my job to ensure the atmosphere is relaxed but ensuring a professional decorum is maintained. The courtroom can be a very intimidating experience for many persons, and it would be my opinion and temperament of being a people person to make sure that the litigant and attorneys feel that they have been heard, and that my rulings were timely rendered, fair and understandable to all.**

**27. 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.**

**The Court should accept plea bargains under normal circumstances, so long as the plea is knowingly and voluntarily entered into by all parties, there is a factual basis and several other conditions are met. Plea bargains should not be accepted when the person does not knowingly and willingly understand and accept the conditions of the plea bargain. For instance, when a person does not understand that deportation may be a result of entering into a plea offer, has mental health issues or is under the influence. A person needs to fully understand the ramifications of their decision to take a plea bargain. A court should accept a plea bargain when all parties agree and**



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the defendant knowingly and willing understands and accepts the conditions of the plea bargain.

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

I plan on arriving early every day and being prepared. I want to be the Judge that turns the lights on in the courthouse every morning, and the last one to leave. I enjoy working and I love the law. I will make sure that I am fully prepared and read every motion, make sure that everyone has an opportunity to be heard, and to move my docket in a progressive and orderly fashion. My biggest goal as to administration and efficiency would to be known as the Judge where you could obtain a quick hearing or trial date.

29. 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.

I taught a seminar for the Paralegal Association of Florida, Broward County Chapter on Recent Changes in the Law, Statutes and Practices. I am routinely called upon by attorneys for my opinion, guidance and how to proceed with a case. I was also requested to review a few chapters of The Florida Bar Family Law handbook (used by attorneys) before being published.

30. List any significant pro bono work completed since graduating from law school.

I have always completed pro bono work from after the time I left public service as an assistant public defender in 2002 to the present. All my cases are considered important to me, however, the one I am handling now since 2009 is the most significant since it involves a child in elementary school, and a parent's relentless crusade to destroy the other parent via the child. This case is extremely high conflict and involves multiple injunctions for protection as well.

The other case involves a Hague convention case, which is confidential and cannot be discussed.

31. 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.).





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**\*Past Committee member and past Chairperson of a subcommittee of *The Florida Bar Family Law Rules Committee, 2008-2011***

**\*Past Chairperson of the *Criminal Practice Committee of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association, 1995-1996***

**\*Past member of the *Temporary Relief Hearing Ad Hoc Sub-Committee of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association, 2003***

**\*Broward County Women Lawyer's Association, various years through present**

**32. 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.**

**\*Pro Bono Attorney, *Attorney Network for the United States Department of U.S. Central Authority on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, 2008-present***

**\*Pro Bono Attorney for *Mission United Veterans, Pro Bono Legal Project, 2014-present***

**\*Volunteer Judge for The American Legion – High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016**

**\*Past Board of Trustees, *House of Hope/Stepping Stones, 2009-2010, 2013-2014*  
(treatment facility - alternative to incarcerating someone with an addiction)**

**\*Kiwanis – Deerfield Beach West (I just joined)**

**33. What is your judicial philosophy?**

**My judicial philosophy is to be compassionate, respect, keep up to date on the law, be prepared, allow everyone the opportunity to be heard, and make decisions that are easily understood by each litigant.**

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

**I currently and previously represented many clients that are Hispanic. I have always admired the hard work and strong family ethics of the Hispanic community. I have attended various Hispanic Bar functions throughout the years.**

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



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**No.**

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

**My greatest strength is that I love to work, and have a strong work ethic, and I have compassion.**

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

**I am the right person at the right time for this position, as I will add an important measure of competence, experience, and dedication to the Broward Bench.**

**I have practiced law for 26 years all around the State of Florida, and I have handled many different types of cases from criminal, civil, family cases and internationally in Hague Convention matters (International Child Abduction/Kidnapping), as a private attorney and pro-bono for the U.S. Department of State Attorney Network, and in Federal Court defending deportation cases. I have the drive, knowledge, experience and compassion to be the perfect fit for this position. I would be humbly honored to be your next County Court Judge.**

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