



Supreme Court of Florida

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Contact: Craig Waters

850-414-7641 or watersc@flcourts.org

State Court Judicial Campaign Conduct Forums Scheduled May 10 and 11, 2018

When it comes to elections, campaigns for judicial office are never politics as usual. All candidates for judgeships must comply with the ethical requirements of Canon 7 of Florida's Code of Judicial Conduct – a fact that will be explained to all judicial candidates statewide later in May in forums open to the press and the public.

These rules specifically govern judicial candidates, even those not yet elected, and are the strictest standards imposed in any Florida election. Judges who win elections by violating them can be removed from office by the Florida Supreme Court.

Noting that campaign misconduct can undermine that confidence and impair the judicial branch's ability to carry out its responsibilities, Judge de la O emphasized that "all candidates for judicial office must be familiar with the rules governing judicial elections and avoid any abuse of the elections process."

The standards governing judicial elections will be explained to candidates, campaign managers, staff, the news media, and others in these public forums designed to raise awareness regarding the requirements of Canon 7.

The forums are being organized by the Florida Supreme Court and The Florida Bar Board of Governors in conjunction with the state's trial court chief judges and the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee. The forums are scheduled Thursday and Friday, May 10 and 11th, in ten cities throughout the state, each drawing additional participation from one or more adjacent circuits. All of the forums will begin at 1:00 P.M.

Chief Judges will open the forums with brief remarks emphasizing the importance of integrity and professionalism among candidates and the potential impact of campaign misconduct on public trust and confidence in the courts. Representatives of The Florida Bar's Board of Governors will speak briefly regarding the Bar's role in judicial elections.

Members of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee will then provide a summary review of Canon 7, give examples of conduct which may violate the Code, call attention to online resources, and further impress upon candidates, campaign staff, and others in the community the seriousness with which the Supreme Court views any abuse of the elections process.

The Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee is charged with rendering advisory opinions interpreting the application of the Code of Judicial Conduct to specific circumstances confronting or affecting judges and judicial candidates. An online version of the committee’s Canon 7 booklet, *An Aid to Understanding Canon 7*, may be accessed on the Supreme Court’s website at http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/documents.shtml#Judicial. The committee has requested candidates copy for personal use the elections booklet and any other materials they may wish to bring with them to the forums.

All judicial candidates seeking contested seats or facing active opposition for merit retention are encouraged to attend the forums. Invitations have also been extended to voluntary bar associations, state and county political party chairs, and the media. All forums are open to the public and the press.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to participate in the campaign conduct forums should contact Jett Conn, 500 South Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, 850-617-1842, connj@flcourts.org as far in advance of the forums as possible. Persons using a TDD may contact Andru Athens through the Florida Relay Service, 711.

JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN CONDUCT FORUMS
Thursday, May 10, and Friday, May 11, 2018

LOCATION	THURSDAY, May 10, at 1:00 P.M.	
Pensacola	M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building 190 Governmental Center, Courtroom 501 Pensacola, FL 32502	
Jacksonville	Duval County Courthouse 501 W. Adams Street – Chief Judges Chambers Jacksonville, FL 32202	
Miami	Dade County Courthouse 73 W. Flagler Street, Courtroom 6-1 Miami, FL 33130	
Tampa	George Edgecomb County Courthouse Judicial Conference Room – Sixth Floor	

	800 East Twiggs Street Tampa, FL 33602	
West Palm Beach	Palm Beach County Courthouse Judicial Conference Room 205 North Dixie Highway West Palm Beach, FL 33401	
LOCATION	FRIDAY, May 11, at 1:00 P.M.	
Tallahassee		Leon County Courthouse –Courtroom 3G 301 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32301
Gainesville		Alachua County Criminal Justice Center Jury Assembly Room 220 South Main Street Gainesville, Florida 32601
Orlando		Orange County Courthouse 425 North Orange Avenue Suite 2310 (Gene Medina Conference Room) Orlando, Florida 32801
Ft. Lauderdale		Broward County Judicial Complex 201 SE Sixth Street Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33301 Courtroom 15150, 15 th Floor
Ft. Myers		Lee County Justice Center 2075 Martin Luther King Blvd Courtroom 4-B Fort Myers, FL 33901

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