

County Court Judge

Candidate (Group 1) Questions – 2024

Name: Sean Lux Date: 7/12/24

What do you believe distinguishes an exceptional judge, and how do your qualifications align with those standards?

As a County Court is a trial court, the most important quality of an exceptional County Court Judge, aside from impartiality, is a deep understanding of the law and criminal trial procedures. As a trial attorney, I have spent my entire legal career either prosecuting crimes or defending the accused in the courtroom. Through a continual flow of jury trials, I have gained an impeccable level of knowledge of courtroom procedures. Moreover, as a criminal defense attorney, I continuously study the law, ensuring my knowledge remains unparalleled.

An exceptional County Court Judge will also adhere to the highest ethical standards in both professional and personal conduct. Throughout my career as a trial attorney, I have consistently demonstrated my commitment to ethical behavior. Whether prosecuting crimes or defending the accused, I have always maintained the highest levels of honesty, integrity, and professionalism. My reputation for ethical conduct has earned me the trust and respect of my colleagues, clients, and the judiciary.

An exceptional County Court Judge must also be decisive and efficient. With a very large number of cases that come before a county judge, any delays or indecisiveness can create a backlog. As a military veteran who has served in combat operations, being decisive is now second nature to me. My strong knowledge of Florida Statutes and relevant case law will ensure that I make the correct decisions in a timely manner, allowing my courtroom to operate efficiently.

How do you plan to ensure fairness and impartiality in your decisions while serving as a judge in Charlotte County?

Having experience as a both a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney will allow me, as a judge, to appreciate the complexities and nuances of each side, fostering a balanced perspective to ensure that the rights of all parties are respected and that justice is administered impartially.

To ensure fairness and impartiality, I will base my decisions solely on the law and its application to the given facts, consciously working to prevent any biases from influencing my judgments. I will provide clear, detailed explanations to ensure transparency and pledge to treat everyone who comes before me with equal respect, regardless of their background or the nature of their case. During jury trials, I will ensure that all jurors are properly instructed so that their deliberations remain fair and free from external influences.

There is no place in the courtroom for bias of any kind, whether racial, ethnic, religious, or socio-economic. Acknowledging the numerous scientific studies that indicate the presence of these biases in the courtroom, I will continue to

educate myself through these studies to ensure my courtroom remains free of such issues.

What initiatives or reforms do you propose to enhance access to justice and improve the efficiency of the judicial process in our community?

Enhancing access to justice begins with ensuring that residents understand the legal system and its workings. As a judge, I will actively engage with local civic organizations and schools to educate them about the legal system. In my courtroom, I will be patient and allow sufficient time to ensure that unrepresented individuals understand the legal process. I will clearly and concisely explain my rulings and will prioritize fairness and equality, treating all individuals with respect and impartiality. By fostering an environment of transparency and understanding, I aim to build public trust and make the justice system more accessible to everyone.

Of course, to ensure that everyone who comes before me has an opportunity to be heard, the courtroom must operate efficiently. As a criminal defense attorney, I have worked in many different courtrooms throughout the state of Florida and have a good understanding of what works and what doesn't, and I will not hesitate to implement new processes to ensure that each person has sufficient time to be heard while minimizing their time in the courtroom.

Please answer each question in 300 words or less and email back to bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org on or before July 12, 2024.



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