

Neil Gillespie

From: "Amy Hasselbring" <ahasselbring@bowenschroth.com>
To: <neilgillespie@mfi.net>
Cc: "Derek Schroth" <dschroth@bowenschroth.com>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 10:47 AM
Attach: Application Stephen L. Teaster, II.pdf
Subject: JNC Application -
Mr. Gillespie,

Attached is the application of Stephen L. Teaster, II. Thanks.

Amy McCain Hasselbring
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Bowen & Schroth, P.A.
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APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT

(Please attach additional pages as needed to respond fully to questions.)

DATE: September 25, 2015 Florida Bar No.: 29672

GENERAL: Social Security No.: [REDACTED]

1. Name Stephen L. Teaster II E-mail: steaster@rc5state.com

Date Admitted to Practice in Florida: October 9, 2006

Date Admitted to Practice in other States: N/A

2. State current employer and title, including professional position and any public or judicial office.

Office of the Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, 5th Region: Senior Attorney

3. Business address: 101 Sunnyside, Suite 310

City Casselberry County Seminole State FL ZIP 32707

Telephone (407) 389-5140 FAX (407) 389-5139

4. Residential address: 231 Poinsettia Avenue

City Inverness County Citrus State FL ZIP 34452

Since December, 2006 Telephone (352) 419-5175

5. Place of birth: Memphis, Tennessee

Date of birth: November 17, 1967 Age: 47

6a. Length of residence in State of Florida: 13 + years

6b. Are you a registered voter? Yes No

If so, in what county are you registered? Citrus

7. Marital status: Married

If married: Spouse's name Renea Jones Teaster

Date of marriage June 26, 1999

Spouse's occupation Facilitator Citrus County Community Alliance

If ever divorced give for each marriage name(s) of spouse(s), current address for each former spouse, date and place of divorce, court and case number for each divorce.

N/A

8. Children

<i>Name(s)</i>	<i>Age(s)</i>	<i>Occupation(s)</i>	<i>Residential address(es)</i>
Emily	10	N/A	With parents

9. Military Service (including Reserves)

<i>Service</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>Highest Rank</i>	<i>Dates</i>
US Navy	Reserve	E-3	01/87 - 06/89
Rank at time of discharge	<u>E-3</u>	Type of discharge	<u>Honorable</u>
Awards or citations	<u>Letter of Commendation for Volunteer Service</u>		

HEALTH:

10. Are you currently addicted to or dependent upon the use of narcotics, drugs, or intoxicating beverages? If yes, state the details, including the date(s).

No.

11a. During the last ten years have you been hospitalized or have you consulted a professional or have you received treatment or a diagnosis from a professional for any of the following: Kleptomania, Pathological or Compulsive Gambling, Pedophilia, Exhibitionism or Voyeurism?

Yes No

If your answer is yes, please direct each such professional, hospital and other facility to furnish the Chairperson of the Commission any information the Commission may request with respect to any such hospitalization, consultation, treatment or diagnosis. ["Professional" includes a Physician, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Psychotherapist or Mental Health Counselor.]

Please describe such treatment or diagnosis.

11b. In the past ten years have any of the following occurred to you which would interfere with your ability to work in a competent and professional manner?

- Experiencing periods of no sleep for 2 or 3 nights
- Experiencing periods of hyperactivity
- Spending money profusely with extremely poor judgment
- Suffered from extreme loss of appetite

- Issuing checks without sufficient funds
- Defaulting on a loan
- Experiencing frequent mood swings
- Uncontrollable tiredness
- Falling asleep without warning in the middle of an activity

Yes No

If yes, please explain.

I have overdrawn my personal Bank of America account for NSF. This was due to accounting errors between me and my wife.

My wife and I were unable to sell our home in Jacksonville after we moved to Inverness in 2006. In 2009 we defaulted on the loan and the mortgage was foreclosed.

I defaulted on one of my student loans, but I am currently repaying that loan via a wage garnishment.

- 12a. Do you currently have a physical or mental impairment which in any way limits your ability or fitness to properly exercise your duties as a member of the Judiciary in a competent and professional manner?

Yes No

- 12b. If your answer to the question above is Yes, are the limitations or impairments caused by your physical or mental health impairment reduced or ameliorated because you receive ongoing treatment (with or without medication) or participate in a monitoring or counseling program?

Yes No

Describe such problem and any treatment or program of monitoring or counseling.

13. During the last ten years, have you ever been declared legally incompetent or have you or your property been placed under any guardianship, conservatorship or committee? If yes, give full details as to court, date and circumstances.

No.

14. During the last ten years, have you unlawfully used controlled substances, narcotic drugs or dangerous drugs as defined by Federal or State laws? If your answer is "Yes," explain in detail. (Unlawful use includes the use of one or more drugs and/or the unlawful possession or distribution of drugs. It does not include the use of drugs taken under supervision of a licensed health care professional or other uses authorized by Federal law provisions.)

No.

15. In the past ten years, have you ever been reprimanded, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended, cautioned or terminated by an employer as result of your alleged consumption of alcohol, prescription drugs or illegal use of drugs? If so, please state the circumstances under which such action was taken, the name(s) of any persons who took such action, and the background and resolution of such action.

No.

16. Have you ever refused to submit to a test to determine whether you had consumed and/or were under the influence of alcohol or drugs? If so, please state the date you were requested to submit to such a test, the type of test required, the name of the entity requesting that you submit to the test, the outcome of your refusal and the reason why you refused to submit to such a test.

No.

17. In the past ten years, have you suffered memory loss or impaired judgment for any reason? If so, please explain in full.

No.

EDUCATION:

18a. Secondary schools, colleges and law schools attended.

<i>Schools</i>	<i>Class Standing</i>	<i>Dates of Attendance</i>	<i>Degree</i>
Lee University		09/86 - 09/91	B.A.
Univ. of Tennessee		09/92 - 08/95	M. Ed.
Univ. of Tennessee		09/95 - 05/97	Ed. D. (Incomp)
Florida Coastal SOL	138 of 354	09/03 - 05/06	J. D.

18b. List and describe academic scholarships earned, honor societies or other awards.

Presidential Scholar 1986, Lee University
 Governor's Merit Scholarship 2003, Florida Coastal SOL
 Phi Delta Phi International Legal Honor Society

NON-LEGAL EMPLOYMENT:

19. List all previous full-time non-legal jobs or positions held since 21 in chronological order and briefly describe them.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Employer</i>	<i>Address</i>
10/02 - 01/04	School Based Therapist	Child Guidance Center	1100 Cesery Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32211
01/00 - 08/02	QA Coordinator	AL Dept of Human Resources	1321 5th Ave S, Birmingham, AL 35233

	Abuse Investigator		
08/99 - 12/99	Primary Therapist	Orion Behavioral Health Care	N/A Company Defunct
08/98 - 08/99	Intervention & Prevention Coordinator	SafeHouse of Shelby County, Inc.	PO Box 620, Columbiana, AL 35051

PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS:

20. List all courts (including state bar admissions) and administrative bodies having special admission requirements to which you have ever been admitted to practice, giving the dates of admission, and if applicable, state whether you have been suspended or resigned.

<i>Court or Administrative Body</i>	<i>Date of Admission</i>
State of Florida	10/09/2006

LAW PRACTICE: (If you are a sitting judge, answer questions 21 through 26 with reference to the years before you became a judge.)

21. State the names, dates and addresses for all firms with which you have been associated in practice, governmental agencies or private business organizations by which you have been employed, periods you have practiced as a sole practitioner, law clerkships and other prior employment:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name of Firm</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Senior Attorney	Office of the Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel	101 Sunnyside Road, Casselberry, FL 32707	10/08 - present
Senior Attorney	Florida Department of Children and Families	212 W. Main St., Inverness, FL 34453	11/06 - 09/08
Certified Legal Intern	Florida Coastal Consumer Law Clinic	8787 Baypine Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32256	Spring 2006

22. Describe the general nature of your current practice including any certifications which you possess; additionally, if your practice is substantially different from your prior practice or if you are not now practicing law, give details of prior practice. Describe your typical clients or former clients and the problems for which they sought your services.

Represent parents in dependency proceedings with the Department of Children and Families. Participate in civil litigation, administrative and other legal proceedings, including mediation and case plan conferencing. Draft legal documents, conduct legal research and advise clients on legal issues. Conduct cases, trials and hearings. Interview clients, witnesses, victims, and other relevant parties to ascertain facts of case. Gather evidence to formulate case plans and prepare for legal actions. Prepare and file legal briefs, defend dependency petitions/shelter petitions and other pleadings.

23. What percentage of your appearance in courts in the last five years or last five years of practice (include the dates) was in:

	Court		Area of Practice		
Federal Appellate	_____	0 %	Civil	_____	99.5 %
Federal Trial	_____	0 %	Criminal	_____	.5 %
Federal Other	_____	0 %	Family	_____	0 %
State Appellate	_____	0 %	Probate	_____	0 %
State Trial	_____	0 %	Other	_____	0 %
State Administrative	_____	0 %			
State Other	_____	0 %			
	_____	%			
TOTAL	_____	100 %	TOTAL	_____	100 %

24. In your lifetime, how many (number) of the cases you have tried to verdict or judgment were:

Jury?	_____	0	Non-jury?	_____	40
Arbitration?	_____	0	Administrative Bodies?	_____	0

25. Within the last ten years, have you ever been formally reprimanded, sanctioned, demoted, disciplined, placed on probation, suspended or terminated by an employer or tribunal before which you have appeared? If so, please state the circumstances under which such action was taken, the date(s) such action was taken, the name(s) of any persons who took such action, and the background and resolution of such action.

No.

26. In the last ten years, have you failed to meet any deadline imposed by court order or received notice that you have not complied with substantive requirements of any business or contractual arrangement? If so, please explain in full.

No.

(Questions 27 through 30 are optional for sitting judges who have served 5 years or more.)

- 27a. For your last 6 cases, which were tried to verdict before a jury or arbitration panel or tried to judgment before a judge, list the names and telephone numbers of trial counsel on all sides and court case numbers (include appellate cases).

DCF v. CS; 09-2013-DP-14; Rochanda Mercier, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Melissa Egan, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program, 352-344-1147.

DCF v. JR; 09-2014-DP-35; Susan Bodner, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Ashleigh Wagner, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program, 352-344-1147; Osa J. Harp IV, Counsel for the mother JF, 352-796-9303.

DCF v. CO; 09-2014-DP-33; Rochanda Mercier, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Ashleigh Wagner, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program, 352-344-1147; Osa J. Harp IV, Counsel for the father JG, 352-796-9303.

DCF v. SC; 09-2014-DP-112; Rochanda Mercier, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Ashleigh Wagner, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program, 352-344-1147; Christopher Mulligan, Counsel for the father EV, 352-593-5990; Juan Lynam, Counsel for the father DM, 352-399-2583.

DCF v. AH; 09-2014-DP-144; Beth Antrim, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Caitlin Wilcox, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program, 352-344-1147; Elliot Ambrose, Counsel for the father MM, 352-796-8100; Melissa Pendergrass, Counsel for the father CW, 352-382-7934.

FW & SW v. ML; 09-2014-DR-405, 5D15-1658; J. Michael Blackstone, Counsel for the Petitioners, 352-794-0222.

- 27b. For your last 6 cases, which were settled in mediation or settled without mediation or trial, list the names and telephone numbers of trial counsel on all sides and court case numbers (include appellate cases).

DCF v. MW; 09-2014-DP-152; Beth Antrim, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Caitlin Wilcox, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program, 352-344-1147; Scott Smith, Counsel for the father JW, 352-796-7055.

DCF v. AS; 09-2015-DP-116; Susan Bodner, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Melissa Egan, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program, 352-344-1147; Melissa Pendergrass, Counsel for the mother AS, 352-382-7934.

DCF v. LR; 09-2015-DP-77; Susan Bodner, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Melissa Egan, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program, 352-344-1147; Elliot Ambrose, Counsel for the father JK, 352-796-8100; Juan Lynam, Attorney ad Litem for the children VL, DR, 352-399-2583.

DCF v. RN; 09-2015-DP-23; Marilyn Adler, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Juan Lynam, Counsel for the mother SL, 352-399-2583.

DCF v. ST; 09-2015-DP-79; Susan Bodner, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Melissa Pendergrass, Counsel for the father KR, 352-382-7934; ; Elliot Ambrose, Counsel for the father MS, 352-796-8100; Christopher Mulligan, Counsel for the father JR, 352-593-5990.

DCF v. HR; 09-2015-DP-46; Susan Bodner, Counsel for the Department, 352-860-5103; Melissa Egan, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program, 352-344-1147; Juan Lynam, Counsel for the father JD, 352-399-2583; Miquell Mack, Counsel for the father AP, 352-304-6825.

- 27c. During the last five years, how frequently have you appeared at administrative hearings?
0 average times per month
- 27d. During the last five years, how frequently have you appeared in Court?
40+ average times per month

27e. During the last five years, if your practice was substantially personal injury, what percentage of your work was in representation of plaintiffs? 0% Defendants? 0%

28. If during any prior period you have appeared in court with greater frequency than during the last five years, indicate the period during which this was so and give for such prior periods a succinct statement of the part you played in the litigation, numbers of cases and whether jury or non-jury.

N/A

29. For the cases you have tried to award in arbitration, during each of the past five years, indicate whether you were sole, associate or chief counsel. Give citations of any reported cases.

NA

30. List and describe the six most significant cases which you personally litigated giving case style, number and citation to reported decisions, if any. Identify your client and describe the nature of your participation in the case and the reason you believe it to be significant. Give the name of the court and judge, the date tried and names of other attorneys involved.

I am not sure that I can describe the six most significant cases that I personally have personally litigated because I am not able to measure their longitudinal impact on the children and their families, but I can describe six of the cases that impacted me the most and have helped form my approach to my work today.

DCF v. AH; 09-2014-DP-144; Petition for Dependency; Citrus County; Circuit Judge Mary Hatcher; April 2015; Beth Antrim, Counsel for the Department; Caitlin Wilcox, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program; Elliot Ambrose, Counsel for the father MM; Melissa Pendergrass, Counsel for the father CW.

Counsel for the mother AH; Dependency action initiated after a shelter by the Department of Children and Families. I believe it to be significant because my client had significant mental health issues and I was able to assist her with obtaining a case plan for reunification after the trial. After shelter she retained private counsel who was subsequently withdrawn after threats from the client's family and my office was reassigned to represent the client. The client was arrested and thereafter fled the State to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A few days before trial the client informed me that she no longer desired my representation. I filed a Motion to Withdraw, but due to the time constraints and the client's history the Motion was denied and we proceeded to trial. The Judge allowed the mother to appear for the trial via telephone. The children were Adjudicated Dependent and the client was given a Case Plan for Reunification.

IN RE: KQ and HQ; 09-2012-DR-1292; Petition for Termination of Parental Rights; Citrus County; Circuit Judge Carol Falvey; April 2014; Christopher Mulligan, Counsel for Petitioners.

Counsel for the father JQ; Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Subsequent Step-Parent Adoption. I believe it to be significant because it was a private termination of parental rights case where the father had been restricted from contact with the children via a long term Injunction that limited his ability to have contact with the children. The mother had hidden the children from him for many years and then filed the Petition. At the close of the trial the father consented to the Petition and the termination was granted.

DCF v. CP; 09-2012-DP-113; Petition for Dependency; Citrus County; Circuit Judge Sandy Kautz; March 2013; Susan Bodner, Counsel for the Department; Charles Vaughn, Counsel for the mother, RS.

Counsel for the father CP. The child AP was sheltered away from the mother and placed with the father, my client. After the shelter the Department of Children and Families filed a Petition for Dependency including allegations against the father. At trial

the allegations were not proven and a Judgment of Dismissal was granted on my Ore Tenus Motion to the Court at the close of the State's case.

DCF v. AA; 09-2006-DP-245; Petition for Termination of Parental Rights; Citrus County; Circuit Judge Sandy Kautz; February 2013; Beth Antrim and Rochanda Mercier, Counsel for the Department; Ashleigh Wagner, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program; Juan Lynum Counsel for father WH; Christopher Mulligan, Counsel for the father ML.

Counsel for the mother AA. The children had been sheltered away from the mother by the Department of Children and Families and eventually reunified after all being Adjudicated Dependent. The children were subsequently sheltered again, and the mother did not complete her second case plan. The Department filed a Termination of Parental Rights Petition which was granted after two days of trial. The reason I believe it to be significant was that the mother had been reunified before, but due to substance abuse and mental health issues she did not complete her case plan. The second time the children were taken into custody was due in part to substance abuse, but also to the extreme poverty that the family endured because of the drugs. I spent significant time working with her and attempting to help her complete her substance abuse inpatient treatment, but ultimately it became apparent that she was not going to be successful. After two days of trial the TPR was granted. An appeal followed but was returned PCA by the Fifth DCA.

DCF v. ET; 09-2007-DP-283; Petition for Termination of Parental Rights; Citrus County; Circuit Judge Sandy Kautz; May 2009; Beth Antrim, Counsel for the Department; Melissa Egan Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program.

Counsel for the mother ET. The client's children were taken into custody at a shelter hearing in 2007 shortly after the father had passed away. Prior to my involvement in the case the mother was offered a case plan of which the most significant portion was substance abuse treatment. The client was from an indigenous tribe in New Zealand and had significant cultural differences between her understanding of the world and the Florida Dependency system. She continued to use alcohol and would not seek treatment because she believed it to be part of her culture and heritage. I spent many, many hours working with her and on her behalf, including filing one of the motions attached to this application. Ultimately the Judge granted the Termination, and the children were adopted by the paternal grandparents.

DCF v. NR; 60-2008-DP-30; Petition for Termination of Parental Rights; Sumter County; Circuit Judge Michelle Morley; January 2011; Richard Gish and Millie Mainwaring, Counsel for the Department of Children and Families; Sarah Acree and Brad Bobbitt, Counsel for the Guardian ad Litem Program; Dan Archer, Counsel for the father JR; Scott Smith, Attorney ad Litem for the child DR.

Counsel for the mother NR. The single most personally painful case I have ever tried. Despite her deep and unwavering love for the child the mother had significant mental, emotional and physical disabilities that prohibited her from being able to care for him. A native of Michigan she and the father had moved to Florida with the idea of starting a better life. She was completely dependant on the father for her support, and was not able to separate from him, but he also had significant disabilities and together they barely managed to squeak out a living. The child also had serious medical problems and developmental delays. Both parents had been offered a case plan, but were not able to complete it. The child required specialized care on an almost constant basis and

the parents were not able to master the required skills necessary to have the child returned to them. At trial it became apparent that the Department was going to prevail on its Petition, and after a long consultation with Mr. Archer and myself the parents elected to surrender the child rather than to have the Judge involuntarily terminate their rights.

31. Attach at least one example of legal writing which you personally wrote. If you have not personally written any legal documents recently, you may attach writing for which you had substantial responsibility. Please describe your degree of involvement in preparing the writing you attached.

Please see the three attached examples

PRIOR JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE OR PUBLIC OFFICE:

- 32a. Have you ever held judicial office or been a candidate for judicial office? If so, state the court(s) involved and the dates of service or dates of candidacy.

No.

- 32b. List any prior quasi-judicial service:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Position Held</i>
N/A		

Types of issues heard:

- 32c. Have you ever held or been a candidate for any other public office? If so, state the office, location and dates of service or candidacy.

No.

- 32d. If you have had prior judicial or quasi-judicial experience,

- (i) List the names, phone numbers and addresses of six attorneys who appeared before you on matters of substance.

N/A

- (ii) Describe the approximate number and nature of the cases you have handled during your judicial or quasi-judicial tenure.

N/A

- (iii) List citations of any opinions which have been published.

N/A

- (iv) List citations or styles and describe the five most significant cases you have tried or heard. Identify the parties, describe the cases and tell why you believe them to be significant. Give dates tried and names of attorneys involved.

N/A

- (v) Has a complaint about you ever been made to the Judicial Qualifications Commission? If so, give date, describe complaint, whether or not there was a finding of probable cause, whether or not you have appeared before the Commission, and its resolution.

N/A

- (vi) Have you ever held an attorney in contempt? If so, for each instance state name of attorney, approximate date and circumstances.

N/A

- (vii) If you are a quasi-judicial officer (ALJ, Magistrate, General Master), have you ever been disciplined or reprimanded by a sitting judge? If so, describe.

N/A

BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT:

- 33a. If you are now an officer, director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise, state the name of such enterprise, the nature of the business, the nature of your duties, and whether you intend to resign such position immediately upon your appointment or election to judicial office.

Advisory Board; The Salvation Army Citrus County Corps: Yes if required

- 33b. Since being admitted to the Bar, have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law? If so, give details, including dates.

No.

- 33c. State whether during the past five years you have received any fees or compensation of any kind, other than for legal services rendered, from any business enterprise, institution, organization, or association of any kind. If so, identify the source of such compensation, the nature of the business enterprise, institution, organization or association involved and the dates such compensation was paid and the amounts.

No.

POSSIBLE BIAS OR PREJUDICE:

34. The Commission is interested in knowing if there are certain types of cases, groups of entities, or extended relationships or associations which would limit the cases for which you could sit as the presiding judge. Please list all types or classifications of cases or litigants for which you as a general proposition believe it would be difficult for you to sit as the presiding judge. Indicate the reason for each situation as to why you believe you might be in conflict. If you have prior judicial experience, describe the types of cases from which you have recused yourself.

Judicial Waiver of Parental Notice of Termination of Pregnancy; personal religious beliefs and convictions.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- 35a. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?
Yes _____ No If "Yes" what charges? _____
Where convicted? _____ Date of Conviction: _____
- 35b. Have you pled nolo contendere or pled guilty to a crime which is a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?
Yes _____ No If "Yes" what charges? _____
Where convicted? _____ Date of Conviction: _____
- 35c. Have you ever had the adjudication of guilt withheld for a crime which is a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?
Yes _____ No If "Yes" what charges? _____
Where convicted? _____ Date of Conviction: _____
- 36a. Have you ever been sued by a client? If so, give particulars including name of client, date suit filed, court, case number and disposition.
No.
- 36b. Has any lawsuit to your knowledge been filed alleging malpractice as a result of action or inaction on your part?
No.
- 36c. Have you or your professional liability insurance carrier ever settled a claim against you for professional malpractice? If so, give particulars, including the amounts involved.
No.
- 37a. Have you ever filed a personal petition in bankruptcy or has a petition in bankruptcy been filed against you?
No.
- 37b. Have you ever owned more than 25% of the issued and outstanding shares or acted as an officer or director of any corporation by which or against which a petition in bankruptcy has been filed? If so, give name of corporation, your relationship to it and date and caption of petition.
No.
38. Have you ever been a party to a lawsuit either as a plaintiff or as a defendant? If so, please supply the jurisdiction/county in which the lawsuit was filed, style, case number, nature of the lawsuit, whether you were Plaintiff or Defendant and its disposition.
Florida; Duval County; Wells Fargo v. Stephen & Renea Teaster; 16-2009-CA-016017-XXXXMA; 10/16/2009; Foreclosure; Defendant; Granted
Florida; Duval County; Mandarin Glen Condominium Assoc. v. Stephen & Renea Teaster; 16-2008-CC-014137-XXXXMA; 08/18/2008; Foreclosure; Defendant; Dismissed

39. Has there ever been a finding of probable cause or other citation issued against you or are you presently under investigation for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, or other professional group. If so, give the particulars.

No.

40. To your knowledge within the last ten years, have any of your current or former co-workers, subordinates, supervisors, customers or clients ever filed a formal complaint or formal accusation of misconduct against you with any regulatory or investigatory agency, or with your employer? If so, please state the date(s) of such formal complaint or formal accusation(s), the specific formal complaint or formal accusation(s) made, and the background and resolution of such action(s). (Any complaint filed with JQC, refer to 32d(v).

No.

41. Are you currently the subject of an investigation which could result in civil, administrative or criminal action against you? If yes, please state the nature of the investigation, the agency conducting the investigation and the expected completion date of the investigation.

No.

42. In the past ten years, have you been subject to or threatened with eviction proceedings? If yes, please explain.

No.

- 43a. Have you filed all past tax returns as required by federal, state, local and other government authorities?

Yes No If no, please explain. _____

- 43b. Have you ever paid a tax penalty?

Yes No If yes, please explain what and why. _____

- 43c. Has a tax lien ever been filed against you? If so, by whom, when, where and why?

No.

HONORS AND PUBLICATIONS:

44. If you have published any books or articles, list them, giving citations and dates.

No.

45. List any honors, prizes or awards you have received. Give dates.

N/A

46. List and describe any speeches or lectures you have given.

N/A

47. Do you have a Martindale-Hubbell rating? Yes If so, what is it? ___ No

PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

48a. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any office which you may have held in such groups and committees to which you belonged.

N/A

48b. List, in a fully identifiable fashion, all organizations, other than those identified in response to question No. 48(a), of which you have been a member since graduating from law school, including the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in each such organization.

Crystal River Church of God, Board of Elders; 2009 - 2014

48c. List your hobbies or other vocational interests.

Fishing, swimming, spending time with my wife and daughter, enjoying all that Florida has to offer in the way of entertainment, dining out.

48d. Do you now or have you ever belonged to any club or organization that in practice or policy restricts (or restricted during the time of your membership) its membership on the basis of race, religion, national origin or sex? If so, detail the name and nature of the club(s) or organization(s), relevant policies and practices and whether you intend to continue as a member if you are selected to serve on the bench.

No.

48e. Describe any pro bono legal work you have done. Give dates.

Due to my employment I am currently not able to assist the public with pro bono legal work. However, in 2010 I did provide pro bono legal services for Lena Smith with Community Legal Services of Mid Florida for one of her clients in a couple of small claims actions in Citrus County. I assisted a daughter in becoming a guardian for her mother a Chapter 744 Guardianship in 2008.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

49a. Have you attended any continuing legal education programs during the past five years? If so, in what substantive areas?

Yes.

Chapter 744 Guardianship

Legal Research

Professionalism

Ethics

Oath Of Attorney: Fairness

Right of Privacy

Capital Punishment
Child Abuse (Criminal)
Legislative Updates
Dependency Law
School Justice

49b. Have you taught any courses on law or lectured at bar association conferences, law school forums, or continuing legal education programs? If so, in what substantive areas?

No.

50. Describe any additional education or other experience you have which could assist you in holding judicial office.

I came to the law after a first career in the field of social services, specifically that of Child Welfare. As a practitioner in what we refer to as "the helping arts" I was able to hone a sense of understanding and discernment that has carried on into my life as an attorney. One of the greatest complaints that public at large has against those in our profession is the inability to communicate with their lawyer. I have made an intentional and concerted effort to make sure that I am able to effectively maintain my contact with my clients in order to provide the best service that I can for them. As a Judge I would seek to continue an appropriate avenue of open communication and understanding between myself, the members of the Bar, and the public.

51. Explain the particular potential contribution you believe your selection would bring to this position.

I believe that I would be able to use my unique history of life experience, educational background, and professional understanding to uphold the law while tempering justice with mercy, maintaining community safety and improving the quality of life for those whom I would serve.

52. If you have previously submitted a questionnaire or application to this or any other judicial nominating commission, please give the name of the commission and the approximate date of submission.

No.

53. Give any other information you feel would be helpful to the Commission in evaluating your application.

I have spent my entire adult life in the service of my fellow man and I have never regretted it. I have found both personal and professional fulfillment in helping others, and seeking justice for those who cannot help themselves. It is my genuine desire to continue my service to the law and my fellow man in a capacity that would allow me to use whatever humble gifts the Lord has seen fit to bestow on me in the best manner possible. I believe that I would be an excellent judge and that my selection would benefit the people of the Fifth Circuit. If I did not sincerely believe this, I would not apply.

REFERENCES:

54. List the names, addresses and telephone numbers of ten persons who are in a position to comment on your qualifications for judicial position and of whom inquiry may be made by the Commission.

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Attorney

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Honorable Mary Hatcher
Circuit Judge
Assistant: Helen Reid
C/O Citrus County Courthouse
110 N. Apopka Avenue
Inverness, FL 34450
Office: (352) 341-6709
Fax: (352) 341-6793
Email: hreid@circuit5.org

Keith M. Schenck, Esq.
Citrus County General Magistrate
Administrative Secretary: Maria Tasber
C/O Citrus County Courthouse
110 N. Apopka Avenue
Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 341-7011
Fax:(352) 341-7012

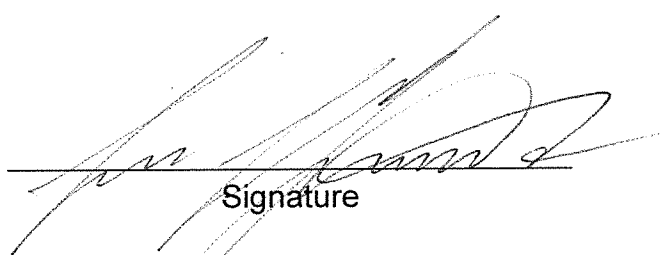
CERTIFICATE

I have read the foregoing questions carefully and have answered them truthfully, fully and completely. I hereby waive notice by and authorize The Florida Bar or any of its committees, educational and other institutions, the Judicial Qualifications Commission, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners or any judicial or professional disciplinary or supervisory body or commission, any references furnished by me, employers, business and professional associates, all governmental agencies and instrumentalities and all consumer and credit reporting agencies to release to the respective Judicial Nominating Commission and Office of the Governor any information, files, records or credit reports requested by the commission in connection with any consideration of me as possible nominee for appointment to judicial office. Information relating to any Florida Bar disciplinary proceedings is to be made available in accordance with Rule 3-7.1(l), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. I recognize and agree that, pursuant to the Florida Constitution and the Uniform Rules of this commission, the contents of this questionnaire and other information received from or concerning me, and all interviews and proceedings of the commission, except for deliberations by the commission, shall be open to the public.

Further, I stipulate I have read, and understand the requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct.

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2015.

STEPHEN L. TEASDALE II
Printed Name


Signature

(Pursuant to Section 119.071(4)(d)(1), F.S.), . . . The home addresses and telephone numbers of justices of the Supreme Court, district court of appeal judges, circuit court judges, and county court judges; the home addresses, telephone numbers, and places of employment of the spouses and children of justices and judges; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of justices and judges are exempt from the provisions of subsection (1), dealing with public records.

FINANCIAL HISTORY

1. State the amount of gross income you have earned, or losses you have incurred (before deducting expenses and taxes) from the practice of law for the preceding three-year period. This income figure should be stated on a year to year basis and include year to date information, and salary, if the nature of your employment is in a legal field.

Current year to date	2015: 43049.97		
List Last 3 years	2014: 56699.94	2013: 55249.95	2012: 54999.96

2. State the amount of net income you have earned, or losses you have incurred (after deducting expenses but not taxes) from the practice of law for the preceding three-year period. This income figure should be stated on a year to year basis and include year to date information, and salary, if the nature of your employment is in a legal field.

Current year to date	2015: 27096.23		
List Last 3 years	2014: 36485.02	2013: 34681.16	2012: 35136.65

3. State the gross amount of income or losses incurred (before deducting expenses or taxes) you have earned in the preceding three years on a year by year basis from all sources other than the practice of law, and generally describe the source of such income or losses.

Current year to date	0		
List Last 3 years	0	0	0

4. State the amount of net income you have earned or losses incurred (after deducting expenses) from all sources other than the practice of law for the preceding three-year period on a year by year basis, and generally describe the sources of such income or losses.

Current year to date	0		
List Last 3 years	0	0	0

**FORM 6
FULL AND PUBLIC
DISCLOSURE OF
FINANCIAL INTEREST**

PART A – NET WORTH

Please enter the value of your net worth as of December 31 or a more current date. [Note: Net worth is not calculated by subtracting your *reported* liabilities from your *reported* assets, so please see the instructions on page 3.]

My net worth as of October 1, 2015 was \$1000.

PART B - ASSETS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:

Household goods and personal effects may be reported in a lump sum if their aggregate value exceeds \$1,000. This category includes any of the following, if not held for investment purposes; jewelry; collections of stamps, guns, and numismatic items; art objects; household equipment and furnishings; clothing; other household items; and vehicles for personal use.

The aggregate value of my household goods and personal effects (described above) is \$ 35000.00

ASSETS INDIVIDUALLY VALUED AT OVER \$1,000:

DESCRIPTION OF ASSET (specific description is required – see instructions p. 3)

VALUE OF ASSET

DESCRIPTION OF ASSET (specific description is required – see instructions p. 3)	VALUE OF ASSET
N/A	

PART C - LIABILITIES

LIABILITIES IN EXCESS OF \$1,000 (See instructions on page 4):

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR

AMOUNT OF LIABILITY

Student Loan, Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 650725, Dallas, TX 75265-0725	7470.40
Student Loan, Sallie Mae, P.O. Box 9640 WilkesBarre, PA 18773-9640	13479.32
Capitol One Auto Loan, P.O. Box 30285, Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0285	4940.39
GM Financial, P.O. Box 183834, Arlington, TX 76096	4825.25
College Assist, C/O Nelnet, 3015 S. Parker Rd, Suite 400, Aurora, CO 80014	201,996

JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITIES NOT REPORTED ABOVE:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR

AMOUNT OF LIABILITY

PART D - INCOME

You may ***EITHER*** (1) file a complete copy of your latest federal income tax return, *including all W2's, schedules, and attachments*, ***OR*** (2) file a sworn statement identifying each separate source and amount of income which exceeds \$1,000 including secondary sources of income, by completing the remainder of Part D, below.

I elect to file a copy of my latest federal income tax return and all W2's, schedules, and attachments.
 (if you check this box and attach a copy of your latest tax return, you need not complete the remainder of Part D.)

PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME (See instructions on page 5):

NAME OF SOURCE OF INCOME EXCEEDING \$1,000	ADDRESS OF SOURCE OF INCOME	AMOUNT
State of Florida; Jeff Atwater, Chief Financial Officer	200 E Gaines Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0356	\$50,896.24

SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME [Major customers, clients, etc., of businesses owned by reporting person—see instructions on page 6]

NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITY	NAME OF MAJOR SOURCES OF BUSIENSS' INCOME	ADDRESS OF SOURCE	PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY OF SOURCE
N/A			

PART E – INTERESTS IN SPECIFIC BUSINESS [Instructions on page 7]

	BUSINESS ENTITY #1	BUSINESS ENTITY #2	BUSINESS ENTITY #3
NAME OF BUSINESS ENTNTITY	N/A		
ADDRESS OF BUSINESS ENTITY			
PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY			
POSITION HELD WITH ENTITY			
I OWN MORE THAN A 5% INTEREST IN THE BUSINESS			
NATURE OF MY OWNERSHIP INTEREST			

IF ANY OF PARTS A THROUGH E ARE CONTINUED ON A SEPARATE SHEET, PLEASE CHECK HERE

OATH

I, the person whose name appears at the beginning of this form, do depose on oath or affirmation and say that the information disclosed on this form and any attachments hereto is true, accurate, and complete.

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Citrus

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 2nd day of October, 2015 by Stephen Teaster

Amber R. Elliott

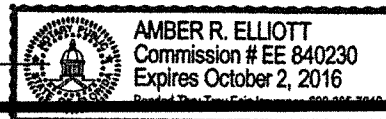
(Signature of Notary Public—State of Florida)

AMBER R. ELLIOTT

(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)

Personally Known X OR Produced Identification _____

Type of Identification Produced _____



SIGNATURE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM 6:

PUBLIC RECORD: The disclosure form and everything attached to it is a public record. **Your Social Security Number is not required and you should redact it from any documents you file.** If you are an active or former officer or employee listed in Section 119.071(4)(d), F.S., whose home address is exempt from disclosure, the Commission is required to maintain the confidentiality of your home address **if you submit a written request for confidentiality.**

PART A – NET WORTH

Report your net worth as of December 31 or a more current date, and list that date. This should be the same date used to value your assets and liabilities. In order to determine your net worth, you will need to total the value of all your assets and subtract the amount of all of your liabilities. Simply subtracting the liabilities reported in Part C from the assets reported in Part B will not result in an accurate net worth figure in most cases.

To total the value of your assets, add:

- form;
- (1) The aggregate value of household goods and personal effects, as reported in Part B of this form;
 - (2) The value of all assets worth over \$1,000, as reported in Part B; and
 - (3) The total value of any assets worth less than \$1,000 that were not reported or included in the category of “household goods and personal effects.”

To total the amount of your liabilities, add:

- (1) The total amount of each liability you reported in Part C of this form, except for any amounts listed in the “joint and several liabilities not reported above” portion; and,
- (2) The total amount of unreported liabilities (including those under \$1,000, credit card and retail installment accounts, and taxes owed).

PART B – ASSETS WORTH MORE THAN \$1,000

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:

The value of your household goods and personal effects may be aggregated and reported as a lump sum, if their aggregate value exceeds \$1,000. The types of assets that can be reported in this manner are described on the form.

ASSETS INDIVIDUALLY VALUED AT MORE THAN \$1,000:

Provide a description of each asset you had on the reporting date chosen for your net worth (Part A), that was worth more than \$1,000 and that is not included as household goods and personal effects, and list its value. Assets include: interests in real property; tangible and intangible personal property, such as cash, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, interests in partnerships, beneficial interest in a trust, promissory notes owed to you, accounts received by you, bank accounts, assets held in IRAs, Deferred Retirement Option Accounts, and Florida Prepaid College Plan accounts. You are not required to disclose assets owned solely by your spouse.

How to Identify or Describe the Asset:

— Real property: Identify by providing the street address of the property. If the property has no street address, identify by describing the property’s location in a manner sufficient to enable a member of the public to ascertain its location without resorting to any other source of information.

— Intangible property: Identify the type of property and the business entity or person to which or to whom it relates. **Do not list simply “stocks and bonds” or “bank accounts.”** For example, list “Stock (Williams Construction Co.),” “Bonds (Southern Water and Gas),” “Bank accounts (First

National Bank),” “Smith family trust,” Promissory note and mortgage (owed by John and Jane Doe).”

How to Value Assets:

- Value each asset by its fair market value on the date used in Part A for your net worth.
- Jointly held assets: If you hold real or personal property jointly with another person, your interest equals your legal percentage of ownership in the property. However, assets that are held as tenants by the entirety or jointly with right of survivorship must be reported at 100% of their value.
- Partnerships: You are deemed to own an interest in a partnership which corresponds to your interest in the equity of that partnership.
- Trusts: You are deemed to own an interest in a trust which corresponds to your percentage interest in the trust corpus.
- Real property may be valued at its market value for tax purposes, unless a more accurate appraisal of its fair market value is available.
- Marketable securities which are widely traded and whose prices are generally available should be valued based upon the closing price on the valuation date.
- Accounts, notes, and loans receivable: Value at fair market value, which generally is the amount you reasonably expect to collect.
- Closely-held businesses: Use any method of valuation which in your judgment most closely approximates fair market value, such as book value, reproduction value, liquidation value, capitalized earnings value, capitalized cash flow value, or value established by “buy-out” agreements. It is suggested that the method of valuation chosen be indicated in a footnote on the form.
- Life insurance: Use cash surrender value less loans against the policy, plus accumulated dividends.

PART C—LIABILITIES

LIABILITIES IN EXCESS OF \$1,000:

List the name and address of each creditor to whom you were indebted on the reporting date chosen for your net worth (Part A) in an amount that exceeded \$1,000 and list the amount of the liability. Liabilities include: accounts payable; notes payable; interest payable; debts or obligations to governmental entities other than taxes (except when the taxes have been reduced to a judgment); and judgments against you. You are not required to disclose liabilities owned *solely* by your spouse.

You do not have to list on the form any of the following: credit card and retail installment accounts, taxes owed unless the taxes have been reduced to a judgment), indebtedness on a life insurance policy owned to the company of issuance, or contingent liabilities. A “contingent liability” is one that will become an actual liability only when one or more future events occur or fail to occur, such as where you are liable only as a partner (without personal liability) for partnership debts, or where you are liable only as a guarantor, surety, or endorser on a promissory note. If you are a “co-maker” on a note and have signed as being jointly liable or jointly and severally liable, then this is not a contingent liability.

How to Determine the Amount of a Liability:

- Generally, the amount of the liability is the face amount of the debt.
- If you are the only person obligated to satisfy a liability, 100% of the liability should be listed.

— If you are jointly and severally liable with another person or entity, which often is the case where more than one person is liable on a promissory note, you should report here only the portion of the liability that corresponds to your percentage of liability. *However*, if you are jointly and severally liable for a debt relating to property you own with one or more others as tenants by the entirety or jointly, with right of survivorship, report 100% of the total amount owed.

— If you are only jointly (not jointly and severally) liable with another person or entity, your share of the liability should be determined in the same way as you determined your share of jointly held assets.

Examples:

— You owe \$10,000 to a bank for student loans, \$5,000 for credit card debts, and \$60,000 with your spouse to a saving and loan for the mortgage on the home you own with your spouse. You must report the name and address of the bank (\$10,000 being the amount of that liability) and the name and address of the savings and loan (\$60,000 being the amount of this liability). The credit cards debts need not be reported.

— You and your 50% business partner have a \$100,000 business loan from a bank and you both are jointly and severally liable. Report the name and address of the bank and \$50,000 as the amount of the liability. If your liability for the loan is only as a partner, without personal liability, then the loan would be a contingent liability.

JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITIES NOT REPORTED ABOVE:

List in this part of the form the amount of each debt, for which you were jointly and severally liable, that is not reported in the “Liabilities in Excess of \$1,000” part of the form. Example: You and your 50% business partner have a \$100,000 business loan from a bank and you both are jointly and severally liable. Report the name and address of the bank and \$50,000 as the amount of the liability, as you reported the other 50% of the debt earlier.

PART D – INCOME

As noted on the form, you have the option of either filing a copy of your latest federal income tax return, including all schedules, W2's and attachments, with Form 6, or completing Part D of the form. If you do not attach your tax return, you must complete Part D.

PRIMARY SOURCES OF INCOME:

List the name of each source of income that provided you with more than \$1,000 of income during the year, the address of that source, and the amount of income received from that source. The income of your spouse need not be disclosed; however, if there is a joint income to you and your spouse from property you own jointly (such as interest or dividends from a bank account or stocks), you should include all of that income.

“Income” means the same as “gross income” for federal income tax purposes, even if the income is not actually taxable, such as interest on tax-free bonds. Examples of income include: compensation for services, gross income from business, gains from property dealings, interest, rents, dividends, pensions, IRA distributions, distributive share of partnership gross income, and alimony, but not child support. Where income is derived from a business activity you should report that income to you, as calculated for income tax purposes, rather than the income to the business.

Examples:

— If you owned stock in and were employed by a corporation and received more than \$1,000 of income (salary, commissions, dividends, etc.) from the company, you should list the name of the company, its address, and the total amount of income received from it.

— If you were a partner in a law firm and your distributive share of partnership gross income exceeded \$1,000, you should list the name of the firm, its address, and the amount of your distributive share.

— If you received dividend or interest income from investments in stocks and bonds, list only each individual company from which you received more than \$1,000. Do not aggregate income from all of these investments.

— If more than \$1,000 of income was gained from the sale of property, then you should list as a source of income the name of the purchaser, the purchaser's address, and the amount of gain from the sale. If the purchaser's identity is unknown, such as where securities listed on an exchange are sold through a brokerage firm, the source of income should be listed simply as "sale of (name of company) stock," for example.

— If more than \$1,000 of your income was in the form of interest from one particular financial institution (aggregating interest from all CD's, accounts, etc., at that institution), list the name of the institution, its address, and the amount of income from that institution.

SECONDARY SOURCE OF INCOME:

This part is intended to require the disclosure of major customers, clients, and other sources of income to businesses in which you own an interest. It is not for reporting income from second jobs. That kind of income should be reported as a "Primary Source of Income." You will **not** have anything to report **unless**:

(1) You owned (either directly or indirectly in the form of an equitable or beneficial interest) during the disclosure period, more than 5% of the total assets or capital stock of a business entity (a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, LLC, proprietorship, joint venture, trust, firm, etc., doing business in Florida); and

(2) You received more than \$1,000 in gross income from that business entity during the period.

If your ownership and gross income exceeded the two thresholds listed above, then for that business entity you must list every source of income to the business entity which exceeded 10% of the business entity's gross income (computed on the basis of the business entity's more recently completed fiscal year), the source's address, the source's principal business activity, and the name of the business entity in which you owned an interest. You do not have to list the amount of income the business derived from that major source of income.

Examples:

— You are the sole proprietor of a dry cleaning business, from which you received more than \$1,000 in gross income last year. If only one customer, a uniform rental company, provided more than 10% of your dry cleaning business, you must list the name of your business, the name of the uniform rental company, its address, and its principal business activity (uniform rentals).

— You are a 20% partner in a partnership that owns a shopping mall and your gross partnership income exceeded \$1,000. You should list the name of the partnership, the name of each tenant of the mall that provided more than 10% of the partnership's gross income, the tenant's address and principal business activity.

PART E – INTERESTS IN SPECIFIED BUSINESS

The types of businesses covered in this section include: state and federally chartered banks; state and federal savings and loan associations; cemetery companies; insurance companies; mortgage companies, credit unions; small loan companies; alcoholic beverage licensees; pari-mutuel wagering companies; utility companies; and entities controlled by the Public Service Commission; and entities granted a franchise to operate by either a city or a county government.

You are required to make this disclosure if you own or owned (either directly or indirectly in the form of an equitable or beneficial interest) at any time during the disclosure period, more than 5% of the total assets or capital stock of one of the types of business entities listed above. You also must complete this part of the form for each of these types of business for which you are, or were at any time during the year an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or agent (other than a resident agent solely for service of process).

If you have or held such a position or ownership interest in one of these types of businesses, list: the name of the business, its address and principal business activity, and the position held with the business (if any). Also, if you own(ed) more than a 5% interest in the business, as described above, you must indicate that fact and describe the nature of your interest.

JUDICIAL APPLICATION DATA RECORD

The judicial application shall include a separate page asking applicants to identify their race, ethnicity and gender. Completion of this page shall be optional, and the page shall include an explanation that the information is requested for data collection purposes in order to assess and promote diversity in the judiciary. The chair of the Commission shall forward all such completed pages, along with the names of the nominees to the JNC Coordinator in the Governor's Office (pursuant to JNC Uniform Rule of Procedure).

(Please Type or Print)

Date: October 2, 2015

JNC Submitting To: _____

Name (please print): Stephen L. Teaster II

Current Occupation: Senior Attorney, Office of the Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel

Telephone Number: 904-307-1049 Attorney No.: 29672

Gender (check one): Male Female

Ethnic Origin (check one): White, non Hispanic
 Hispanic
 Black
 American Indian/Alaskan Native
 Asian/Pacific Islander

County of Residence: Citrus

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO THE
FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT (FCRA)

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) may obtain one or more consumer reports, including but not limited to credit reports, about you, for employment purposes as defined by the Fair Credit Reporting Act, including for determinations related to initial employment, reassignment, promotion, or other employment-related actions.

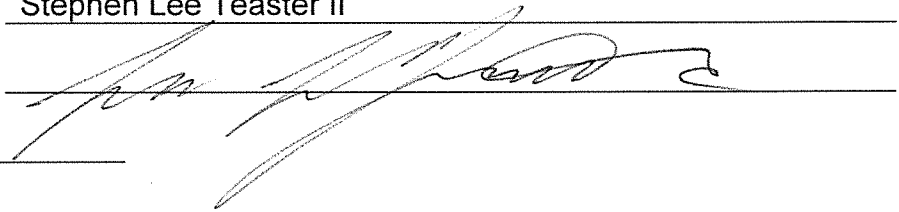
CONSUMER'S AUTHORIZATION FOR FDLE
TO OBTAIN CONSUMER REPORT(S)

I have read and understand the above Disclosure. I authorize the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to obtain one or more consumer reports on me, for employment purposes, as described in the above Disclosure.

Printed Name of
Applicant:

Stephen Lee Teaster II

Signature of Applicant:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Lee Teaster II", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Date: October 2, 2015

Attachments

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA
JUVENILE DIVISION

IN RE: THE INTEREST OF

Case No: 2008-DP-486

████████████████████

DOB: 8/28/2008

SEX: F

Minor child. _____ /

EMERGENCY MOTION TO REOPEN CASE AND MODIFY PLACEMENT

COMES NOW the Father, ██████████, by and through the undersigned attorney, and moves this Court for entry of an Order to Reopening Supervision in the above styled cause and Modify the Placement of the above-named child to the care and custody of the Paternal Grandmother ██████████ and/or the Paternal Great-grandmother ██████████. As grounds therefore the father would show:

1. The above-named child is a minor under the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court.
2. The father has repeatedly requested that the above-named child with one, or both of his mother, ██████████ and/or the paternal great-grandmother ██████████.
3. An approved home study was filed by DCF on February 18, 2011.
4. On April 5, 2011 over the objection of the father the above-named child was placed in a nonrelative permanent guardianship with the foster parents ██████████ and ██████████. The Report of the General Magistrate was issued on April 12, 2011 with the Order Adopting the Report signed and clerked on April 28, 2011.
5. At the hearings held before the General Magistrate where the determination was made to place the above-named child into permanent guardianship with the nonrelative foster parents the belief that the nonrealitve foster parents would leave the State with the child without court permission was repeatedly brought to the Court's attention. Specifically

the concern that the child was going to be taken to Pennsylvania where the nonrelative foster mother had repeatedly stated an intention to move after the case closed.

6. The nonrelative foster mother stated under oath to the court that the family was not going to move to Pennsylvania, and that there were no plans for such a move. During the pronouncement of his decision the General Magistrate made it clear to the nonrelative foster mother that the child was not to be removed from the State without the permission of the Court.
7. At the hearing on April 5, 2011 the Court determined that the previously ordered visitation of the paternal grandmother, and the paternal great-grandmother be maintained and intimated that expanded visitation should be considered between the parties. This visitation was specifically designed to maintain family contacts, and to facilitate and promote the child's relationship with the nonoffending father.
8. The paternal grandmother and the paternal great-grandmother have not had a visit with the above-named child for several months. The excuse given by the nonrelative permanent guardians was that they had gone for a "visit" with family in Pennsylvania.
9. It has come to the father's attention that the nonrelative caregivers have absconded from the State with the child and without permission of the court, or notice to the parties.
10. In a letter to the Court dated August 22, 2011, but not recorded by the Citrus County Clerk's Office until September 15, 2011, the nonrelative foster parents stated that they had relocated due to "unexpected family circumstances." This letter was not sent to DCF, the Guardian *ad Litem* Program, or the father. On September 19, 2011 the Citrus County Clerk of Courts supplied a copy of the nonrelatives' letter to DCF and the GaLP, but not to the father.

11. It is believed that the mother, who did not complete her case plan, is residing with the nonrelative permanent guardians in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
12. It is now patently obvious that in order to gain the custody of the above-named child that a blatant and intentional fraud has been perpetrated on the Court by the nonrelative foster parents. The deception and flaunting of the authority of the Court by them is not only flagrant, but also demonstrates their total disregard for the authority of this Court.

WHEREFORE, the Father, [REDACTED], respectfully requests that this Court enter an order Reopening Supervision in the above styled cause and Modifying the Placement of the above-named child to the care and custody of the Paternal Grandmother and/or the Paternal Great-grandmother.

Respectfully,

Stephen L. Teaster II, Esq.
FBN: 29672
Assistant Regional Counsel
210 West Jefferson Street
Brooksville, FL 34601
(352) 754-8743 – Office
(352) 754-8744 – Fax

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished to the following on March 3, 2009:

DCF/CLS
KCI/FCM
The Honorable Sandy K. Kautz
General Magistrate Keith Schenck
Guardian Ad Litem

Eric Schultz, Esq., for the Mother

Stephen L. Teaster II, Esq.
FBN: 29672
Assistant Regional Counsel
210 West Jefferson Street
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(352) 754-8743 – Office
(352) 754-8744 – Fax

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CITRUS
COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 09-2012-DR-001292-A

IN THE INTEREST OF:

[REDACTED]

DOB: 07/28/1998

SEX:F

DOB: 10/24/1999

SEX: F

_____/
MINOR CHILDREN.

**MOTION TO DISMISS PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF
PARENTAL RIGHTS AND REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE**

COMES NOW the natural father, [REDACTED], by and through his undersigned attorney and files this Motion to Dismiss, and in support thereof would state the following:

I. MOTION TO DISMISS

1. [REDACTED] is the natural father of the minor children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
2. This action was filed by the Mother and Stepfather of the minor children for the termination of the natural father's parental rights.
3. The natural mother of the children has intentionally conducted a campaign of alienation of the affections of the minor children
4. In 2003 the mother voluntarily filed a Petition for a Domestic Violence Injunction in Citrus County Case Number 2003-DR-1056 under Section 741.30 of the Florida Statutes. The result of this action was the Final Order of Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence with Minor Children After Notice, and an Amended Final Judgment of Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence With Minor Child(Ren) (After

Notice) filed in the case in July 2005. Both of these Orders remain in full effect as they were to stand until further order of the court, and no subsequent orders of any court with competent jurisdiction have contravened them.

5. Page one of paragraph six of the Amended Final Judgment of Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence With Minor Child(Ren) (After Notice) for Citrus County Case Number 2003-DR-1056 states “This injunction shall be in full force and effect until further order of the court.”
6. Since the filing of the Petition for a Domestic Violence Injunction in Citrus County Case Number 2003-DR-1056 Section §741.30 of the Florida Statutes has changed and no longer allows for injunctions with no firm completion date, however when the law was changed, it did not overturn the injunctions already in force.
7. The father has faithfully abided by the orders of the Court in the Amended Final Judgment of Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence With Minor Child(Ren) (After Notice) regarding his contact with the minor children. To wit, page six paragraph “c” of the Amended Order states that the father may only have visitation at the Citrus County Visitation center on Friday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., or Sunday s from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
8. The father was not allowed to continue to visit the minor children at the Citrus County Visitation Center for an indefinite period of time after his release from incarceration in 2005, but did visit with the minor children until he was no longer allowed to do so. It should be noted that the Citrus County Visitation Center no longer keeps the ordered hours, and has not done so form a considerable period of time, thus making impossible for the father to comply with the Court’s Order.

9. The father is unable to contact the minor children, although it is his fervent wish to do so.
10. The Petitioner in the above titled cause is the Petitioner in Citrus County Case Number 2003-DR-1056 and is fully and completely aware of the dictates of the Amended Final Judgment of Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence With Minor Child(Ren) (After Notice) regarding the Father's contact with his minor children, and she should be collaterally stopped from pursuing further action in the above titled cause.

II. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE

COMES NOW the natural father, [REDACTED], by and through his undersigned attorney pursuant to Florida Statute §90.202 and files this Request for Judicial Notice of Citrus County Case Number 2003-DR-1056 and all orders therein.

WHEREFORE, the father, respectfully moves the Court to issue an Order Dismissing the Termination of Parental Rights Petition filed by the mother and the Stepfather in the above titled cause and Requests for Judicial Notice for Citrus Count Case Number 2003-DR-1056.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen L. Teaster II, Esq.
Assistant Regional Counsel
Florida Bar No.: 29672
Office of Criminal Conflict and
Civil Regional Counsel, 5th District
101 Sunnyside Road, Ste. 310
Casselberry, Florida 32707
Telephone No.: (407) 389-5140
Fax No.: (407) 389-5139

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S.MAIL/PERSONAL delivery to the persons named below by U.S. MAIL/FACSIMILE/ELECTRONIC MAIL/COURTHOUSE MAIL and/or HAND DELIVERY, this 7th day of August, 2013.

Christopher Mulligan Esquire, via electronic mail
Honorable Carol Falvey via courthouse mail

Stephen L. Teaster II, Esq.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JUVENILE DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF:

CASE NO: 2007-DP-283

[REDACTED]

DOB: 02/23/2004

SEX: FEMALE

DOB: 04/10/2006

SEX: FEMALE

minor children. /

MOTION TO DISMISS PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

COMES NOW the mother, [REDACTED], by and through undersigned counsel pursuant to Florida Rule of Juvenile Procedure 8.420 and Section 39.6013 Florida Statutes and hereby moves this Honorable Court to enter an Order Dismissing for cause the Department of Children and Families' Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Request for Judicial Notice in the above titled cause.

1. The above-titled case began on or about April 9, 2007, and the above-named children were Adjudicated Dependent on or about May 23, 2007.
2. The final result of the initial action in the above-titled cause was a reunification of the children with their father, and the case was closed in May of 2008.
3. In August 2008 the father succumbed to complications from surgery and passed away.
4. At the time of the passing of the father the Department of Children and Families (the Department) sheltered the above named children and placed them with their paternal grandparents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
5. Citrus County General Magistrate Keith Schenck recommended in his report on the court proceedings of September 15, 2008 that the goal of the case was to be Permanent Guardianship, and the goal date was to be March 30, 2009.

6. On October 3, 2008 Judge Gurrola signed the Order Adopting Magistrate Schenck's report and its recommendations.
7. On February 4, 2009 the Department filed a Judicial Review Social Study Report and Case Plan Update recounting the progress of the Permanent Guardianship case plan and the placement of the above named children with their grandparents.
8. At the Judicial Review on February 9, 2009 the Office of the Regional Counsel was appointed as counsel for the mother by Magistrate Schenck. The Office of the Regional Counsel was not the mother's counsel in any previous action, and has not represented the mother in any other cause prior to the February 9, 2009 appointment.
9. At the Judicial Review on February 9, 2009 the Department suddenly announced that it would seek to terminate the mother's parental rights. At that time Magistrate Schenck did not sanction or approve the surprise goal change.
10. On March 26, 2009 in violation of the mother's due process rights the Department filed a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Request for Judicial Notice.
11. The Department has failed to follow both the dictates of Florida Rule of Juvenile Procedure 8.420 and Section 39.6013 of the Florida Statutes.
12. Florida Rule of Juvenile Procedure 8.420 provides in pertinent part:

RULE 8.420. CASE PLAN AMENDMENTS

(a) Modifications. After the case plan has been developed, the tasks and services agreed upon in the plan may not be changed or altered except as follows.

(1) The case plan may be amended at any time to change the goal of the plan, employ the use of concurrent planning, add or remove tasks the parent must complete to substantially comply with the plan, provide appropriate services for the child, and

update the child's health, mental health, and education records.

(2) The case plan may be amended on approval of the court if all parties are in agreement regarding the amendments to the plan and the amended plan is signed by all parties and submitted to the court with a memorandum of explanation.

(3) The case plan may be amended by the court or on motion of any party at any hearing to change the goal of the plan, employ the use of concurrent planning, or add or remove the tasks the parent must complete in order to substantially comply with the plan, if there is a preponderance of evidence demonstrating the need for the amendment.

13. Section 39.6013 of the Florida Statutes provides in pertinent part:

39.6013. Case plan amendments

(1) After the case plan has been developed under s. 39.6011, the tasks and services agreed upon in the plan may not be changed or altered in any way except as provided in this section.

(2) The case plan may be amended at any time in order to change the goal of the plan, employ the use of concurrent planning, add or remove tasks the parent must complete to substantially comply with the plan, provide appropriate services for the child, and update the child's health, mental health, and education records required by s. 39.6012.

(3) The case plan may be amended upon approval of the court if all parties are in agreement regarding the amendments to the plan and the amended plan is signed by all parties and submitted to the court with a memorandum of explanation.

(4) The case plan may be amended by the court or upon motion of any party at any

hearing to change the goal of the plan, employ the use of concurrent planning, or add or remove tasks the parent must complete in order to substantially comply with the plan if there is a preponderance of evidence demonstrating the need for the amendment. The need to amend the case plan may be based on information discovered or circumstances arising after the approval of the case plan for:

(a) A previously unaddressed condition that, without services, may prevent the child from safely returning to the home or may prevent the child from safely remaining in the home;

(b) The child's need for permanency, taking into consideration the child's age and developmental needs;

(c) The failure of a party to substantially comply with a task in the original case plan, including the ineffectiveness of a previously offered service; or

(d) An error or oversight in the case plan.

...

(7) Amendments must include service interventions that are the least intrusive into the life of the parent and child, must focus on clearly defined objectives, and must provide the most efficient path to quick reunification or permanent placement given the circumstances of the case and the child's need for safe and proper care. A copy of the amended plan must be immediately given to the persons identified in s.

39.6011(6)(b).

14. Neither before, nor after February 9, 2009 have the mother, nor the mother's counsel agreed to or sanctioned any case plan amendment. Specifically at no time has the mother agreed to a change in the established goal for the case.

15. In R.H. v. Department of Children and Families, 948 So.2d 898 (Fla. App. 5 Dist., 2007) the Fifth DCA held that the due process rights afforded a parent are unassailable and must be followed in order for any change in the case plan, including the goal, to occur. The court stated “No case plan amendment shall take place absent proper notice and the opportunity for an evidentiary hearing should a party object to the proposed amendment. Fla. R. Juv. P. 8.400(b).” R.H., 948 So.2d at 900
16. The Fifth DCA reiterated this demand in K.E. v. Department of Children and Families, 958 So.2d 968 (Fla. App. 5 Dist., 2007).
17. It should be noted that on February 8, 2007 the Florida Supreme Court amended the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure by rewriting Rule 8.400 and adding Rule 8.420 *see* In re Amendments to The Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure, 951 So.2d 804, 809 – 813.
18. Thirteen days after receiving the Department’s Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Request for Judicial Notice, on Thursday, April 9, 2009 the Office of the Regional Counsel acting as mother’s counsel filed a Motion for Continuance asking for an additional thirty to forty-five days in which to prepare for the TPR Trial; and which counsel vehemently contended was absolutely necessary at the Advisory Hearing held the same day. The mother’s attorney contended that his office it was not in possession of the discovery documentation necessary to proceed with the Trial. The mother’s counsel also contended that historical pattern and practice in Citrus County dependency cases was that the Department would provide discovery without the parent’s counsel necessarily having to file a demand for such. The Court denied this Motion at that time and agreed to hear the argument again at the Pre-Trial Conference scheduled for the next Monday after the ensuing Easter holiday weekend.

19. Counsel for the mother again vigorously renewed the Motion for Continuance four days later at the Pre-Trial Conference on Monday, April 13, 2009. On that date the Department provided approximately 25 pages of “Discovery” not including a copy of the case plan upon which its Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Request for Judicial Notice was supposedly based. At that time the Court denied the Motion and set a “Status Conference” for the following Friday.
20. On Friday, April 17, 2009 the mother’s attorney renewed the Motion for Continuance. At that time the Court granted the Motion in part and continued the trial for seven days; thus moving the Trial date from Friday, April 24, 2009 to Friday, May 1, 2009.
21. The minimal extra time granted the mother and her counsel have allowed the discovery of the violation of the Mother’s due process rights and the violation of Florida Rule of Juvenile Procedure 8.420 and Section 39.6013 of the Florida Statutes.
22. Having come to the case late the mother’s counsel improperly presumed that prior to the appointment of the Office of the Regional Counsel as counsel for the mother, that the Department had followed the dictates of the law of the State of Florida and properly amended the case plan goal. Unfortunately this is not the truth and the Department has failed to follow the mandates of both Florida Rule of Juvenile Procedure 8.420 and Section 39.6013 of the Florida Statutes.
23. The Department has never sought from this court its leave to amend the properly adopted goal of Permanent Guardianship, and the evidentiary hearing demanded by Florida law has not been held.
24. Having failed to follow proper procedure the Department must be constrained from the prosecution of its Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Request for Judicial

Notice.

25. This Motion is filed in good faith.

WHEREFORE, the mother, respectfully moves the Court to issue an Order Dismissing Department of Children and Families' Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Request for Judicial Notice and dictating that if the Department of Children and Families desires to impose on the mother her the termination of parental rights, that it must properly follow the dictates of the rules and laws of the State of Florida.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. and/or courthouse mail on this the 30th day of April, 2009:

DCF/CLS
Guardian *ad Litem* Program
Kid's Central, Inc., Family Care Manager
Honorable Sandy K. Kautz

Stephen L. Teaster II, Esq.
FBN: 29672
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Civil Regional Counsel
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