

DOLPHIN DEMOCRATS 2016 JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Ian Richards Office sought: County Court Group 7 Incumbent? NO

Address: 4700 Sheridan Street, Suite J, Hollywood Fl 33021

Phone: 954-663-0266 Email: info@ianrichards.com Website: www.ianrichards.com

1. Where and when did you attend law school? I attended the University of Miami and graduated in 2002.
2. How long have you been a member of the Florida Bar? I've been a member since 2002.
3. In which other states (if any) have you been admitted to the Bar? None
4. Have you ever been disciplined by a state or local Bar? If so, explain briefly. No
5. Do you have any previous experience as a judge or alternative dispute resolution? Yes If so, specify court(s) and/or other forum and number of years. For 6 years I worked in the Misdemeanor Domestic Violence/Backup Felony units and Domestic Violence/ Temporary Domestic violence injunction as a duty judge. Additionally, I worked 2 years as a civil, traffic, and misdemeanor criminal court judge.
6. Have you ever held any non-judicial elected offices? If so, please list office(s) and years served. No
7. Have you ever held any non-judicial appointed offices? If so, please list office(s) and years served. No
8. Please list any awards/honors received relevant to the position you seek.
I was honored by Alpha Kappa Sorority, Legacy Magazines, Zeta Youth Summit, and Hot105 Radio as a trailblazer.
9. Briefly describe your legal background (firms worked for, areas of expertise, etc.).

LAW Offices of Adrien & Richards (Partner) 2014 – Present

Represent clients in criminal and civil cases, corporate litigation, and family law cases.

Broward County Judge 2009 - 2014

In the top 5% of judges for the number of jury trials presided over in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. more than 98% of his decisions were upheld. Streamlined the domestic violence unit by lowering the active caseload countywide from 1,100 to under 500 cases and reducing the wait time for trial by almost half. Implemented 33 day case management strategy and a victim/defendant open door contact policy to address issues. Supervised mental health, drug rehabilitation, and batterer intervention programs in pending and resolved cases to foster safer families. Presided over thousands of cases and hundreds of jury trials.

LAW Office of Ian Richards (Self Employed) 9/2004 – 12/2008

Represented clients in criminal, immigration and real-estate issues, conducted trials, reviewed contracts, formulated litigation strategy, negotiated agreements, crafted legal documents, drafted motions, made legal arguments, and advised clients.

Assistant State Attorney 11th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT 8/2002 - 9/2004

Conducted victim and witness interviews, researched, wrote motions, argued on behalf of the State of Florida, negotiated pleas, litigated felony, misdemeanor and juvenile cases, developed litigation strategy, prepared witnesses for trial, took depositions, handle thousands of cases and conducted jury voir dire.

10. Briefly describe any professional legal experience you have had with civil rights issues.
I have handled many cases dealing with civil rights issues. One recent example involves our office being hired to establish custody for a father that discovered a previously unknown child. Our office took the case but the case law and statute seems to prohibit biological fathers from having any rights when a child is born into a marriage even if the child is conceived before the marriage. We began the case with a small amount of funds but continued representing him pro bono after the funds ran out.
11. Please list the professional, community, social, and religious organizations of which you are now or have been a member in the past ten years.
Vice president of Mentoring with a Father's Heart, president of Miramar homeowner association, member of the Parent Teacher's Association, a local gospel choir, Florida Bar Association, Broward Bar Association, Urban League, TJ Reddick Bar, and Hollywood Rotary Club.
12. Briefly describe any personal experiences you have had with LGBT friends or relatives.
I respect the privacy of my friends and family members that do not wish to disclose their preferences.
13. Briefly describe what you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice.
One of the greatest obstacles is the refusal by some to acknowledge the humanity of others.
14. Briefly describe what you hope to accomplish as a judge.
I want to be a good example of a fair and unbiased judge with respect for all.
15. Briefly describe the greatest strengths you bring to the judicial role.
I maintained respect and fairness to all while still able to streamline the process for everyone.
16. Do you wish to be identified as LGBT (optional)?

SUMMARY: Please briefly explain why lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender voters should support your candidacy (you may use this space for any additional comments or to further explain any responses to the above questions).

I believe in protecting the rights of every race, color, gender, and religion.

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

We ask that you return your completed questionnaire no later than May 25, 2016 You may return your questionnaire in any of the following ways:

- Fax to (954) 630-0830
- Scan and email to (info@dolphindems.org)
- If you have any questions or concerns, please call our google voice line at (954) 951-0830 and someone will return your call.