

## Clarissa Harrell

Name	Clarissa Harrell
Judicial position sought	County judge
County Jurisdiction	Brevard County, Group 6
Florida Bar number	992526
Date admitted to The Florida Bar	11/23/1993
Years in legal profession	30
Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice and date (s) admitted	State of Florida, admitted November 23, 1993
Are you a current or former judge?	No
Area(s) of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil</li> <li>• Criminal</li> <li>• Government</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>
<p>List the primary areas in which you specialize or have legal expertise and allocate a percentage of your practice to each area.</p> <p>At the present time and for 12 years of my 30-year trial attorney career in Brevard County, I have been 100% engaged in criminal prosecution; during the last 5 years I have been in the Career Criminal &amp; Firearms Unit, and in July 2024 I will return to the Sex Crimes &amp; Child Abuse Unit. For 13 years I was 100% engaged in civil law practice, including complex family law litigation, injunctions, child support establishment and enforcement, business litigation, construction lien litigation, contracts, wage and hour violations, federal false claims act work, landlord-tenant cases, and homeowners' association covenant cases. I operated my own law firm for 10 of those civil litigation years. For 5 years I worked 100% in the Brevard child welfare system as a Children's Legal Services litigator and before that as a Guardian Ad Litem Attorney, in both capacities performing trial work related to the protection of children who had been abused or neglected. I also have experience from the early phase of my career as a Trial Court Staff Attorney researching and writing legal memoranda, proposed orders, and judgments for review by the Chief Judge and other Circuit Court Judges in Brevard.</p>	
Number of evidentiary hearings, trials and/or oral arguments in which you have participated as legal counsel:	100-200
Number of jury trials in which you have participated:	39
Number of bench trials in which you have participated:	35

Number of arbitration hearings in which you have participated as legal counsel or hearing officer: 0-5

Number of administrative hearings in which you have participated as legal counsel or hearing officer: 0-5

Percentage of your time representing plaintiffs: 75

Percentage of your time representing defendants: 25

**In 400 words or fewer, without discussing any issue that may come before you as a judge, explain why you would be a good judge. Consider what relevant skills and experience you gained from previous employment that you will bring to the bench.**

Over the entire course of my more than 30 year trial attorney career I have been engaged in meaningful, intense, diverse, high-level, often complex and high-conflict litigation in Brevard County courtrooms. This legal work has been consistently high-volume, mostly very stressful, and sometimes low-paying, but I have chosen all of it over the years because I have a fervent and sincere desire to make a difference in the lives of the people of this county I dearly love.

For four generations my family has served this county in the fields of education, religious ministry, civic engagement, Space Center engineering skill, law enforcement, and military service. My trial attorney career and judicial aspirations derive from my desire to make my own lifelong contribution to that family legacy of service to Brevard. Public safety, rule of law, abstention from legislating from the bench, optimization of justice system integrity and function, and accessibility and civic education for all, especially for children, are all part of my vision and aspirations for judicial work.

I feel I have accrued all the academic and practical skills over my long career to perform judicial work of all kinds at a high level. These skills include management of time and large caseloads; positive interactions with people of all walks of life and backgrounds; legal research and trial skills that have assisted trial judges in my cases in consistently attaining "PCAs" or "per curiam affirmed" appellate rulings -- meaning no errors were committed by the trial court warranting reversal of convictions; and concrete, working knowledge of how to listen carefully and craft detailed rulings that explain the factual findings and applicable law behind a judicial decision. Only through such rulings can litigants enjoy faith and confidence in our legal system, and know that their matters are being taken seriously and have been heard and carefully considered. I believe in our American system of justice with all my heart. I want to give lawyers and the people they represent an optimal environment to do the work they are called to do, to present their cases and obtain justice in our community.

Are you or have you ever been Florida Bar Board Certified in any area(s) of practice? No

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

Degree received: B.S. in Foreign Service, International Politics

Academic awards, honors, recognition, leadership roles: Alumni Admissions Program Scholarship Recipient, John Carroll Scholar, selected as delegate to Model Collegiate Organization for American States, leadership role as Varsity Cheerleader for National Championship-Winning Men's Basketball Team.

GRADUATE DEGREE	Tulane Law School, New Orleans, Louisiana
Degree received:	Juris Doctor
Academic awards, honors, recognition, leadership roles:	Order of Barristers; Administrative Justice on Moot Court Board; President, Public Interest Law Foundation; Captain, National Trial Team; selected as student member of New Orleans Inn of Court; Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Grant Recipient; Winner, Intraschool Trial Competition; Winner, Intraschool Appellate Competition; selected by faculty as Senior Fellow and Instructor in the Legal Research and Writing Program; earned an Environmental Law Certificate
Number of hours devoted to public work while in law school:	540

WORK EXPERIENCE Upload Resume	<a href="#">curriculum_vitae__clarissa_harrell__june_2024.pdf</a> 146.81 KB · PDF
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**Please list activities, accomplishments, honors or leadership roles in pro bono, volunteer, public or military service:**

Past Board Member, The Haven for Children; Chair and Committee Member, The Florida Bar's Grievance Committee for the 18th Circuit; President, Brevard County Bar Association; Mock Trial coaching at 18th Judicial Circuit's Inaugural Summer Youth Program and for Palm Bay High School; Justice Teaching Program; past regular Instructor, 18th Judicial Circuit's Pro Se Divorce Seminar and Women's Center Aspects of Divorce & Separation Class; "We the People" Constitutional Law Coach, Palm Bay High; Junior League Community Projects Committee; Founding Member and Former President, Brevard Bar Foundation (funding charitable community causes); public and private schools and community youth sports volunteer for 16 years; selected for and graduated from the Air War College's National Security Forum at Maxwell A.F.B., Alabama; Teen Court Volunteer; Inaugural Board Member, Robert L. Donaldson, Sr. Academy of Law & Public Safety; Board Member, Brevard Ballet Theatre, Inc.; Sally's Friends support organization for Sally's House Residential Treatment Facility for Mothers and Children; Florida Institute of Technology Advisory Board for Pre-Law Studies

Have you ever been found, either involuntarily or by consent, to have committed a violation of The Florida Bar Disciplinary Rules, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, or the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct for which the discipline imposed was one of the following: (a) public reprimand; (b) suspension; or (c) disbarment?	No
Have you ever been convicted or pled no contest to a crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude?	No
Have you served in the military?	No