

Barbara Kissner Kwatkosky

Name	Barbara Kissner Kwatkosky
Judicial position sought	Circuit judge
Circuit Jurisdiction	5th Circuit, Group 20
Florida Bar number	675229
Date admitted to The Florida Bar	10/07/2003
Years in legal profession	30
Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice and date (s) admitted	Florida 2003 Alaska 1990
Are you a current or former judge?	No
Area(s) of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil • Criminal • Government
List the primary areas in which you specialize or have legal expertise and allocate a percentage of your practice to each area.	Family 58% Criminal 30% Civil 9% Mental health 3%
Number of evidentiary hearings, trials and/or oral arguments in which you have participated as legal counsel:	201+
Number of jury trials in which you have participated:	45
Number of bench trials in which you have participated:	100
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:	9
Percentage of your time representing defendants:	30

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.

I am a native Floridian who has practiced law for thirty years. In November 2016, I was appointed to be a General Magistrate. A General Magistrate has the responsibility to hear and decide issues, manage dockets and resolve cases. In the last 7 years, I have been handled family, dependency and mental health dockets, resolving issues including dissolution of marriage, custody, property distribution, alimony, placement of children, and Baker Acts. I have worked in both Marion and Sumter Counties but was previously assigned to hear child support cases in all five counties of the Fifth Circuit. Between 2006 and 2024, I heard over 70,000 cases. I have prior experience in civil litigation and as criminal defense attorney where I tried over 45 jury trials.

I have been on the faculty of the Florida Judicial College since 2017 helping newly elected and appointed Judges and General Magistrates prepare for their role on the bench. I have taught classes on case management, drafting orders and overall best practices. In 2023, I received the Florida Judicial College Faculty Leadership Award. In 2018, I restarted the Early Childhood Court (ECC) in Marion County and started ECC in Sumter County. This specialty court helps families with babies in dependency cases. I have taught many Continuing Legal Education (CLEs) programs to attorneys on contempt, modifications, Zoom, dependency, child support and case law updates.

All of this experience has taught me that serving the people of the Fifth Circuit is a great privilege. I believe that our judges should foster trust in the court system. Upon qualifying to run, I had to resign as General Magistrate. This was not an easy decision but I believe that I have the most valuable experience for this position.

I graduated from Florida State University and the University of Florida College of Law. I am a member of the Florida Bar, Marion County Bar Association, Florida Bar Family Law Section, and the Fifth Circuit Professionalism Committee. I am a past member of the D.R. Smith Inns of Court.

I have been married for over 28 years and have three children: One is a data analyst, one works in the financial sector, and one recently graduated from the United States Naval Academy and is a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. We are a Blue Star family and I am a proud Marine Mom!

Are you or have you ever been Florida Bar Board Certified in any area(s) of practice?	No
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE	Florida State University
Degree received:	Bachelor Science Communications
Academic awards, honors, recognition, leadership roles:	Omicron Delta Kappa, National Residence Hall Honorary President, FSU Women's Soccer Team
GRADUATE DEGREE	University of Florida
Degree received:	Juris Doctor
Academic awards, honors, recognition, leadership roles:	John Marshall Bar Association, Class Rep
Number of hours devoted to public work while in law school:	0

WORK EXPERIENCE

Upload Resume

[resume2024.pdf](#)

63.82 KB · PDF

Please list activities, accomplishments, honors or leadership roles in pro bono, volunteer, public or military service:

Florida Judicial College Faculty Leadership Award (2023); DR Smith Inns of Court CLE Chair (2017-2020); Fifth Circuit Professionalism Committee (2013-2024); Association of Florida Magistrates and Hearing Officers, Mentor Committee Chair (2019-2024); BSA Scouts Wood Badge Staff (2018); BSA North Florida Council District Advancement Chair (2017-2024); Girl Scouts Troop Leader (2007-2019); volunteer youth sports coach

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