

Zach McCormick

Name	Zach McCormick
Judicial position sought	Circuit judge
Circuit Jurisdiction	5th Circuit, Group 13
Florida Bar number	086137
Date admitted to The Florida Bar	9/29/2010
Years in legal profession	14
Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice and date (s) admitted	Florida (admitted Sept 2010) and Florida US Federal Middle District (admitted Feb 2014).
Are you a current or former judge?	No
Area(s) of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil • Criminal • Government • Other
List the primary areas in which you specialize or have legal expertise and allocate a percentage of your practice to each area.	Civil Litigation - 90% (Currently), Mediation 5%, Magistrate 5%. Prior experience: Criminal Defense 90%.
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:	10
Number of bench trials in which you have participated:	2
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:	50
Percentage of your time representing defendants:	50

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 39 years old and have been practicing law in Florida for nearly 15 years. I started my legal career in law school interning at the State Attorney's Office and my first job out of law school was as an assistant Public Defender where I developed invaluable trial experience. In 2014 I left the public sector and started my own law firm and I now focus primarily on civil litigation and the needs of small businesses. In addition, I am certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a mediator at both the county and circuit levels, I am arbitrator qualified, I currently serve as a code-enforcement magistrate for a local municipality and I am admitted to practice law in the US Federal Middle District of Florida.

Additionally, I have served on the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC), for the better part of the last 5 years and am currently the chair of that body. During my tenure on the JNC I have participated in an uncharacteristically high number of nominations following a wave of retirements in the Circuit. As part of these duties I have polled the judiciary, the local bar and the public-at-large as to the character traits and other qualities that tend to be present in 'good judges'. Through this extended inquiry, it has become clear that the best judges are endowed with a unique combination of respect for the citizens that entrusted them with their duty, the work ethic to move cases forward to conclusion and the willingness to learn from those other judges that have come before them in addition to the fundamental core competencies in law. Although I did not initially intend to seek judicial office, it became apparent during this time on the JNC that I too possessed these traits and, therefore, had a moral obligation to place myself before the voting public for consideration.

In 5th Circuit the number of judges who have litigated civil claims in private practice are relatively few and many of the complexities and nuances associated with such cases can be challenging to deal with to the uninitiated. As such, the bench would be well complimented to have such addition(s).

On a personal note, my wife and I both grew up in Central Florida and have been married for 18 years. We now have two wonderful young boys and we live in Mount Dora, Florida.

Are you or have you ever been Florida Bar Board Certified in any area(s) of practice?	No
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE	UCF
Degree received:	BA Political Science
Academic awards, honors, recognition, leadership roles:	Deans List
GRADUATE DEGREE	Barry Law
Degree received:	Juris Doctorate
Academic awards, honors, recognition, leadership roles:	Law school graduate
Number of hours devoted to public work while in law school:	20

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

Chair of the JNC 5th Judicial Circuit, Past President of Lake County Bar Association, Past President of Young Lawyers Association, Sponsor of the Lake County Teen Court Excellence Award, Mentor for Legal Interns.

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