

Jessica Marra

Name	Jessica Marra
Judicial position sought	Circuit judge
Circuit Jurisdiction	17th Circuit, Group 18
Florida Bar number	90991
Date admitted to The Florida Bar	9/20/2011
Years in legal profession	13
Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice and date (s) admitted	State of Florida, Middle District of Florida
Are you a current or former judge?	Yes
Please list the judicial position, jurisdiction, and years of your current and/or prior judicial experience.	I have been a Circuit Court Judge in the Seventeenth (17) Judicial Circuit (Broward County) since August 2023, handling over 1,000 Family law cases to include divorces, paternity actions, adoptions, domestic violence actions, and general domestic relations matters.
Number of evidentiary hearings, trials and/or oral arguments over which you have presided:	101-200
Number of jury trials over which you have presided:	0
Number of bench trials over which you have presided:	15-20

In 400 words or fewer, without discussing any issue that has or 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 bring to the bench.

Both my life experience and my professional experience qualify me to continue serving the people of Broward County as your Circuit Court judge. I currently sit as a Circuit Court judge in Broward County, presiding over family law cases. With a current caseload of over 1,000 cases, I help families to move forward with, often, hard family decisions during one of the most difficult times of their lives. I do my best every day to make decisions that are in the best interests of the children or family before me while following the laws that I am governed by. My objective for each of my families is that they leave feeling heard, understood, and aware that they are in front of a judge who is fair and truly cares about them and their future as a family.

My life experience, being a Mom to a Heart Warrior child with special needs and my own Cuban background, gives me the added ability to view each case through a lens of empathy, understanding, and patience with each of my families, no matter their background. It also gives me the unique ability to look out for the best interests of any special needs children by using my own

personal experience.

My prior professional experience has also prepared me for this role, to preside in any area. I have worked both in criminal law as a prosecutor for the Broward County Office of the State Attorney and in civil litigation practicing general liability and insurance defense for a large law firm. I have well rounded legal experience that I feel will be useful in any area I may preside over on the bench.

Pre-judicial Area(s) of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil • Criminal • Government
List the primary areas in which you specialized or had legal expertise and allocate a percentage of your practice to each area.	Prior to serving the people as a Family law Judge, I practiced as a civil litigator and also practiced some administrative law, and for the first few years of my career I served as a Prosecutor for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Broward County State Attorney's Office. Overall in my career I would ascribe 75% of my practice to civil litigation and 25% of my practice to criminal litigation.
Number of evidentiary hearings, trials and/or oral arguments in which you participated as legal counsel:	100-200
Number of jury trials in which you participated:	8
Number of bench trials in which you participated:	55
Number of arbitration hearings in which you participated as legal counsel or hearing officer:	0-5
Number of administrative hearings in which you participated as legal counsel or hearing officer:	16-30
Percentage of your time representing plaintiffs:	0
Percentage of your time representing defendants:	100
Are you or have you ever been Florida Bar Board Certified in any area(s) of practice?	No
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE	Florida International University
Degree received:	Political Science
Academic awards, honors, recognition, leadership roles:	Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Recipient
GRADUATE DEGREE	Nova Southeastern University College of Law

Degree received: Juris Doctorate

Academic awards, honors, recognition, leadership roles: Cum Laude
 Cuban American Bar Association Scholarship Recipient, 2010 President's Award Recipient, 2010
 Nominee, Larry Kalevitch Service Award - 2010 & 2011
 Nominee, Stephanie Aleong Impact Award - 2010 & 2011
 Dean's List 2008, 2010

 Student Bar Association President, 2010 - 2011
 Student Bar Association Vice President, 2009 - 2010
 Member of Student Affairs Faculty Committee
 Member of Nova Trial Association (formerly ATLA)

Number of hours devoted to public work while in law school: 60

WORK EXPERIENCE [circuit_court_judge_marra_resume.docx](#)
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Please list activities, accomplishments, honors or leadership roles in pro bono, volunteer, public or military service:

In addition to the Honors above already listed prior to practicing law, I have also been Honored with the following:

- Selected as a Hispanic Women of Distinction; September 10, 2021
- Recipient of Best Lawyers: One to Watch Award 2021 (awarded in August of 2020)
- Recipient of the Broward County Bar Association's "40 under 40" Award; 2021
- Selected as Business Edition of Best Lawyers "Women in the Law"; June 2021
- Selected as a 2021 Girl Scouts Lead the Way Honoree by the Southeast Florida Girl Scouts; September 14, 2021
- Nominee, Daily Business Review "On the Rise" (under 40) Award; 2022
- Selected as 2022 Top Lawyer in Broward County by Fort Lauderdale Illustrated; 2022
- Recipient of the South Florida Business & Wealth "Up & Comer" Award; 10/19/22

I have had the privilege of serving for the past five years as a board member and Director of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association prior to taking the bench, and now serve as their judicial liaison. Through this organization I have been given the opportunity over the years to engage with so many members of the community and participate in meaningful community events. These include but are not limited to organizing and moderating CLE events and events involving fellow minority women community leaders, a Cuban Diaspora, and participating in speaking engagements such as the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Broward County Hispanic Bar Association Bilingual Symposium. I was also a panelist at the "Latinas in Law" event and helped to host children's events during the Holidays for several years. I am also a former Vice President of Women Development for Ms. Esquire, a women's attorney networking group, and had the good fortune to participate in a number of events at the early stages of this wonderful organization that helps to bring women together. I am also a former board member, and current member, of the Broward County Bar Association and have both

The Florida Bar Judicial Voluntary Self Disclosure Statement

moderated and participated in the wonderful events they have to offer our local legal community, including some of my favorite events through their “Lawyers for Literacy” program where I have on several occasions had the great opportunity to read to young students and talk to them about the law. I am also a former board member of the West Broward section of the Broward County Bar Association where, just prior to taking the bench, I helped my colleagues to put on a number of events giving the attorneys of West Broward an opportunity to meet, engage, and develop relationships. I continue to attend those events now as a Judge as well as the events of so many of the numerous and great bar associations we have here in Broward county.

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