



Florida Association for Women Lawyers MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER

POLICY ON LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES SEEKING APPOINTMENT

I. PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY

The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria pursuant to which Miami-Dade FAWL may provide letters of support for judicial candidates seeking appointment to state and federal courts. This policy applies only to those seeking appointment to the bench, and does not reflect Miami-Dade FAWL's policies with respect to judicial candidates running for election.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Miami-Dade FAWL may provide a letter of support for any judicial candidate who fulfills the following requirements:

1. The judicial candidate shall submit to Miami-Dade FAWL a fully completed Judicial Candidate Questionnaire attached hereto as Appendix "A"; and
2. The judicial candidate shall be a member of Miami-Dade FAWL at the time that the Miami-Dade FAWL Board of Directors holds a vote regarding whether to submit a letter of support for the judicial candidate.

The judicial candidate must comply with the requirements set forth in this Section each time he or she seeks appointment to the bench. However, Miami-Dade FAWL requires the submission of only one Judicial Candidate Questionnaire and the requirement of only one Board of Directors vote per appointment sought, even if Miami-Dade FAWL provides multiple decision-makers with letters of support for a particular candidate.



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III. APPROVAL FOR PROVISION OF LETTERS OF SUPPORT

At the next Miami-Dade FAWL Board meeting following receipt of a candidate's completed Judicial Candidate Questionnaire, the Board of Directors shall vote on whether to provide a letter of support for the judicial candidate. A vote of the Board of Directors may be conducted by email if there is an absence of quorum at the first Board meeting following submission of the Judicial Candidate Questionnaire.

Miami-Dade FAWL may decline to provide a letter of support for any judicial candidate who otherwise possesses the qualifications set forth in Section II herein, if The Florida Bar has disciplined the candidate in the ten (10) years prior to the Board vote for a violation of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, or if the candidate is pending the outcome of a criminal, civil, administrative or disciplinary complaint, investigation or proceeding.

Miami-Dade FAWL may decline to provide a letter of support for any judicial candidate who Miami-Dade FAWL determines has engaged in conduct contrary to the mission of Miami-Dade FAWL.

It is ultimately within the sole discretion of Miami-Dade FAWL to determine whether it will issue a letter of support for any judicial candidate.

IV. CONTENT OF LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support for judicial candidates shall include the following:

1. The candidate's qualifications for the bench;
2. The candidate's contribution(s) to Miami-Dade FAWL;
3. The candidate's contribution(s) to the community;
4. The following statement: "Miami-Dade FAWL is a voluntary bar



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association dedicated to actively promoting the advancement of women in the legal profession, expanding the leadership role of its members in the community at large, and promoting women’s rights. Our membership includes lawyers, legal professionals, law students, and others committed to advancing these important goals. Miami-Dade FAWL will offer its support for a judicial candidate when that candidate demonstrates strong personal ethics, broad legal experience, and a history of voluntary service to the underserved; and

5. The signature of the President of Miami-Dade FAWL.

Letters of support for judicial candidates shall not use any form of the word, “endorse” and cannot be used by any judicial candidate to suggest or imply that Miami-Dade FAWL is endorsing his or her application or nomination to the bench.

Letters of support must be reviewed by the Miami-Dade FAWL Quality Control Committee prior to issuance.

V. PUBLICATION

This Policy shall be published and maintained on the Miami-Dade FAWL website.

VI. AMENDMENT

This policy may be amended upon a vote of the Miami-Dade FAWL Board of Directors. Amendments shall not have retroactive effect.

APPENDIX "A"

Miami-Dade FAWL Letter of Support Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

If you need additional space to respond to any of the questions below, please use a separate sheet and attach to this questionnaire.

1. Name: _____

2. Court to which you are seeking appointment: _____

3. List each college and law school you have attended, with years of attendance: _____

4. List all bars in which you have been admitted to practice, with year of admission. _____

5. Have you ever been a party to a criminal or civil proceeding? If so, please supply the jurisdiction/county in which the lawsuit was filed, style, case number, nature of the lawsuit, whether you were plaintiff or defendant, and its disposition. _____

6. Has there ever been a finding of probable cause, citation, reprimand, or other disciplinary action, against you or are you presently under investigation for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, please explain. _____

7. Are you currently the subject of an investigation that could result in civil, administrative or criminal action against you? If yes, please state the nature of the investigation, the agency conducting the investigation and the expected completion date of the investigation. _____

APPENDIX "A"

8. Describe the nature of your law practice, relevant experience, and employment. _____

9. Describe your involvement, including dates of membership, and contributions to MDFAWL and its mission. _____

10. List all organizations, other than MDFAWL, of which you are or have been a member, including bar associations, professional associations, or other civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations, which you would like MDFAWL to consider in providing a letter of support for you, giving dates of membership and offices, if any, you have held, as well as a description of the contributions you have made to each organization. _____

11. List any honors, awards, or recognitions you have received. _____
