



**Judicial Candidate Questionnaire  
20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Judge  
August 2026 Primary Election**

**Your name:** Amanda Levy-Reis  
**Your email address:** judgelevyreis@gmail.com  
**Your phone number:** 239-980-2224  
**Your age:** 45  
**Today's date:** May 25, 2026

*Please limit each response to 150–200 words*

**1. Why do you want to serve as a judge as opposed to practicing law?**

There has been no greater professional honor than being appointed to the circuit court bench by Governor DeSantis. Serving as a judge allows me to fulfill my calling for public service at the highest level—apply the law fairly and impartially while serving the community in a meaningful way. The role requires integrity, discipline, sound judgment, and respect for the rule of law—qualities I demonstrate every day on the bench.

**2. Circuit court judges in Florida may be assigned to handle criminal, civil, family, probate, or juvenile matters. Which areas are your strongest, and how will you prepare to serve effectively across all of them?**

I have served on the circuit court bench since April 2025 and have handled matters involving family, probate, and criminal law. My current assignments include 50% of the family law docket and 25% of the probate docket in Collier County. As duty judge, I have also handled initial appearances, criminal warrants, and related matters.

Before my appointment, I litigated family and civil cases. As a federal court staff attorney, I reviewed habeas corpus petitions involving challenges to criminal convictions, which required regular application of Florida criminal law. I also served as a traffic hearing officer for two years, where I honed courtroom management skills and gained experience explaining courtroom procedures to self-represented litigants. During my time as a hearing officer, I presided over countless non-jury trials.

Given both my litigation and judicial experience, family and civil law are my strongest areas. I continue preparing across all divisions through judicial education, collaboration with experienced colleagues, and ongoing study. Effective judging requires diligence, humility, and a willingness to continually learn.

*(cont'd)*

**3. How do you ensure self-represented litigants receive a fair hearing without compromising your impartiality or the integrity of the proceedings?**

To ensure fairness and impartiality, I do not provide special treatment to self-represented litigants. However, I recognize the importance of making sure all parties understand courtroom procedures and expectations. In cases where one or both parties are unrepresented, I conduct a standard colloquy before evidentiary hearings to explain courtroom procedures, rules, and expectations. This promotes fairness, preserves the integrity of the proceedings, and helps ensure that all litigants are heard respectfully while maintaining judicial neutrality.

**4. Who are your judicial role models? Why?**

I admire the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia for his commitment to applying the law as written and for his recognition of the limited role of the judiciary. He was also an exceptional legal writer and thinker. I likewise admire Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett for her analytical ability, judicial discipline, and commitment to interpreting the law according to its original meaning.

**5. How do or would you approach a case where the law as written produces an outcome that seems unfair or harsh? Where do you draw the line between interpreting the law and making policy?**

The United States is the greatest country in the world because of our Constitution, which creates three equal, yet separate branches of government. A judge's responsibility is to interpret and apply the law—not to make policy or rewrite statutes based on personal views or political agendas. Policymaking belongs to the legislative branch. Even when a result may appear harsh, judges must remain faithful to the law as written and uphold their constitutional role.

**6. Have you ever been disciplined by the bar association or any other authority on attorney or judicial conduct, or been the subject of a Judicial Qualifications Commission inquiry? If yes, please describe the matter and its resolution. If no, please confirm that directly.**

No. I have never been disciplined by any governing authority, nor have I ever been the subject of a Judicial Qualifications Commission inquiry.

**7. What do you want Collier County voters to know about you that they are unlikely to find anywhere else?**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.**  
Please email your responses to [sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com](mailto:sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com)  
no later than June 5, 2026.

I am a homegrown Southwest Floridian. This is where I attended school, built my legal career, am raising our daughter, and now have the privilege of serving as a circuit judge. For more than twenty years, my career has been dedicated to public service. What voters may not know is that even after taking the bench, I remain committed to expanding access to justice through my work with the Twentieth Judicial Circuit's Pro Bono Committee. I believe every person who enters a courtroom deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness, regardless of their circumstances.

#### **8. Why should voters support you rather than your opponent?**

I am a proven judge with a demonstrated record of service on the bench. My work ethic, demeanor, and character have been demonstrated both on and off the bench. Every day, I manage a demanding courtroom and heavy docket while handling family and probate matters thoughtfully and efficiently. I treat everyone with respect and expect the same professionalism from attorneys and litigants appearing before me.

The judicial appointment process is rigorous and thorough. Governor DeSantis and the Judicial Nominating Commission entrusted me to serve as a circuit judge, and I have worked hard to honor that trust. I follow the law, apply the rules fairly, and make decisions without fear or favor.

I humbly ask the voters of the only community I have ever called home to allow me to continue serving on the bench.

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