



**Candidate Questionnaire - Circuit Judge
August 2024 Primary Election**

Your name: Erik Leontiev
Your email address:
Your phone number:
Your age: 45
Today's date: July 13, 2024

What forms of voluntary professional and community service have you been involved with in Southwest Florida in the past? Currently?

1. Lee County Bar Association
2. Collier County Bar Association
3. Michael McDonnell Inns of Court, Naples
4. Calusa Inns of Court, Fort Myers
5. Past Moot Court Judge, Ave Maria School of Law

What has been your greatest accomplishment in your legal career?

1. Receiving two separate judicial appointments from Governor Ron DeSantis. The first was for a Lee County Court judgeship. The second for my current 20th Circuit judgeship.

Which of the various types of matters that have or would come before you as a Circuit Judge would present the least challenge for you? Why?

1. I currently preside over 100% of Dependency and Delinquency matters in Collier County. The cases I hear present an array of challenges because the subject matter concerns the welfare of children. I endeavor to apply the same measure of focus and effort to every challenge that comes before me, be it great or small.

Which of the various types of matters that have or would come before you as a Circuit Judge would present the greatest challenge for you? Why?

1. Same answer as above.

Who are your judicial role models? Why?

1. Former US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Strong defender of textualism and originalism. A great writer.

What are the pros and cons of serving as a judge as compared to practicing law?

1. Pros: Ensuring justice is administered fairly and impartially, upholding the rule of law, and protecting our form of government by respecting the separation of powers.
2. Cons: Not sure.

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.
Please email your responses to sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com
no later than July 6, 2024.*

Have you ever been disciplined by the Bar Association or any other authority on attorney or judicial conduct?

1. Never

Why should voters support you rather than your opponent?

1. I am a judge. I became one following a comprehensive and merit-based vetting process by the local 20th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission. After the JNC vetted me, they nominated me on a short list for the Governor's consideration. The Governor's General Counsel vetted me again, and the Governor appointed me—on two separate occasions.
2. My appointments demonstrate I have a tested and proven record that qualifies me for the bench.
3. I am also broadly supported by the legal community (see campaign committee), which includes prosecutors, defense attorneys, private civil attorneys, former judges, former sheriffs, mayors, and other elected officials. Specifically, I have the endorsements of both the State Attorney, Amira Fox and the Public Defender, Kathy Smith. These are the leading women and Constitutional Officers of the 20th Judicial Court System whose offices stand on opposite sides of the courtroom in all five counties. Their endorsements speak volumes of my ability to be fair and impartial to both sides.

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