

## Democratic Club of Boca Raton and Delray Beach- candidate Questionnaire Jaianna Seaborne

### **1. Please provide a short biography.**

I am Jaianna Seaborne, Esq. a current practicing attorney, a Mother of one, and an U.S. Air Force Veteran. I am also a military child. My father served and retired from the U.S. Navy. I graduated from the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Florida with a BA in Legal Administration and Graduated and received my JD from St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami, Florida. I began my legal career as an Assistant Public Defender in West Palm Beach, Florida and I currently serve as an Assistant Regional Counsel attorney in West Palm Beach where I represent indigent clients facing criminal charges. I have served as staff counsel for Geico Insurance company where I served as insurance defense attorney. I have also been the managing attorney for my own practice, where I handled criminal defense, family law cases, injunction hearings, and civil law cases. I am a trial litigator and have tried over 67 jury trials to verdict and several non-jury trials to verdict.

### **2. What experience do you bring to this position? My legal and life experiences.**

I possess legal knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge in a fair unbiased, and respectful manner. I have practiced both criminal and civil law cases as a practicing attorney. I have tried criminal, civil, and family cases before juries and judges. I respect the system and each person's role in the system and will ensure that regardless of the outcome, each participant is heard and is treated fairly.

Sometimes, trials and tribulations help you later in life. I am grateful for them. I was married and got divorced. I understand how difficult that experience is for many people going through it. Also, I've experienced the trials that come with being a single mother of an African American boy in the U.S. My son is grown now and I am proud of the man he has become.

Travelling stateside and abroad exposed me to diverse people and cultures. If elected, everyone before me, regardless of their background, will be treated respectfully and with dignity.

### **3. Why are you running?**

Court is the place to go to right a wrong or address an injustice. The peaceful resolution of differences depends on fair and impartial judges who treat everyone with dignity and respect. When involved in a lawsuit, the public must be confident that the judge will decide the case based on the law and evidence presented. It is the Judge's duty to treat each person who enters court with dignity and respect. I know the law, and if elected, will apply the law fairly and impartially in a respectful manner. If elected, all participants will know they received a fair hearing from a competent and courteous judge.

### **4. What are the major influences in your life?**

As a child growing up in a military environment and then serving in the military myself, I value family and respect. Family is a support system that encourages, motivates, and corrects in a respectful but stern way without embarrassment or belittlement. Fortunately, my parents instilled respect and integrity in me, and so it is second nature to extend it to others.

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**5. What is your general judicial philosophy as it pertains to the court on which you will sit as a judge?**

My judicial philosophy is respect and dignity. I will allow all parties to be heard in a respectful manner. I will apply the law in a fair and unbiased way, so that no matter the outcome of the case, each party feels they were treated in a fair and just way. I do not believe that any two cases are exactly alike. Therefore, outcomes of cases should not be painted with one broad stroke. In this arena, the Judge has some discretion. With this discretion comes tremendous power and opportunity. Because I know there is no "one size fits all" remedy, I will work earnestly to ensure that outcomes match the specifics of the case before me.

**6. Would there be any specific types of cases in which you might find it necessary to disqualify yourself? Can you give us an example?**

I do not have any cases that I would disqualify myself from. I can hear each individual case and facts of the case and apply the law to those facts in a consistent and fair way to render just decisions and rulings.

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

Demeanor and knowledge of the law. A judge should treat each person in the courtroom with dignity and respect, know the law and apply it correctly. Bar Polls consistently show my opponent ranks at the bottom compared to other county court judges when it comes to demeanor and knowledge of the law.

If elected, everyone in my courtroom will be treated with dignity and respect. If someone is treated bad by a judge, their whole perception of the judicial system is shaped by that event. I want to promote respect for the law and the judicial system. My service in the military taught me that respect is earned not given. If I am elected, I will do my best to earn the respect of everyone in the courtroom.

**8. Which justice of the Supreme Court, either alive or dead, would you like to meet and why? Ruth Bader Ginsberg**

She is a bold and dominant legal voice of my generation. She was not afraid to stand up and fight for justice. Her opinions and decisions repealed many laws which supported unequal rights based on sex and race. Her courageousness always has impressed and motivated me.

**9. What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice, if any?**

People don't trust or respect the justice system. They feel they have no voice, they are not treated fairly, and overall, they lack confidence in a system where justice is dependent upon the judge's mood on a day to day basis, or the judge doesn't follow the law, or they are disrespected in the courtroom. These things tarnish the impartiality and neutrality of the system giving the effect that one may not receive a fair chance in particular courtrooms.

**10. What is your vision for the future of our judicial system? What changes would you advocate and why?**

I envision a system where citizens feel they can actually achieve justice through the courts. I feel citizens need to become more active in the judicial system and acquire the knowledge of how their communities and their families are affected, and take action when changes need to occur. Additionally, I would advocate for saving taxpayers' money by closely examining the merits of each case and each defendant to determine which path leads to a just outcome and would most likely decrease the chance of overspending taxpayer money while serving justice.