



GREATER TALLAHASSEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Second Judicial Circuit Group 7: Candidate Fact Sheet

*As of July 16, 2026*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Most jury trials in Florida are conducted before a single judge serving on a circuit court. These courts are often called courts of general jurisdiction because they handle the majority of both criminal and civil cases at their starting point.

Florida's Constitution requires a circuit court for each judicial circuit created by the Legislature, and there are currently twenty such circuits. The number of judges in each circuit varies based on the population and caseload of that area. To qualify as a circuit judge, an individual must be a registered voter in a county within the circuit and must have been licensed to practice law in Florida for at least five years.

Circuit judges are elected in nonpartisan elections by voters within their circuits, competing against other qualified candidates. The Code of Judicial Conduct requires judges and judicial candidates to be faithful to the law and "not be swayed by partisan interests, public clamor, or fear of criticism." They must "act in a manner consistent with the impartiality, integrity, and independence of the judiciary." They are prohibited from holding office in a political organization, attending political party functions, or making contributions to political organizations, and cannot knowingly allow anyone to do so on their behalf.

They serve six-year terms and are held to the same disciplinary rules as justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the district courts of appeal. If a circuit judge resigns, the Governor is tasked to appoint a new judge to take their place. Each circuit selects a chief judge from among its circuit and county judges. This chief judge oversees administrative duties for all trial courts within the circuit.

Circuit courts have general trial jurisdiction over matters not assigned by statute to the county courts and also hear appeals from county court cases. Thus, circuit courts are simultaneously the highest trial courts and the lowest appellate courts in Florida's judicial system.

The trial jurisdiction of circuit courts includes, among other matters, original jurisdiction over civil disputes involving more than \$50,000; controversies involving the estates of decedents, minors and persons adjudicated as incapacitated; cases relating to juveniles; criminal prosecutions for all felonies; tax disputes; actions to determine the title and boundaries of real property; suits for declaratory judgments that is, to determine the legal rights or responsibilities of parties under the terms of written instruments, laws or regulations before a dispute arises and leads to litigation; and requests for injunctions to prevent persons or entities from acting in a manner that is asserted to be unlawful.

In addition, circuit courts have the authority to issue special legal orders, known as extraordinary writs, such as certiorari, prohibition, mandamus, quo warranto and habeas corpus, along with any other writs necessary to fully carry out their jurisdiction.

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### JASON JONES (INCUMBENT)

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| <b>Amount Raised</b>                                                     | \$47,275.00 (monetary contributions), \$25,000.00 (loans), \$116.50 (in-kind contributions)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Campaign Website</b>                                                  | <a href="#">Meet Judge Jones</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Background</b><br><i>(pulled from publicly available information)</i> | <p>Florida Bar Admittance: 04/14/2004</p> <p>For more than 22 years, Judge Jones has served the people of the Second Judicial Circuit and the State of Florida. In his courtroom, he has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to fairness, impartiality, and treating every person with dignity and respect.</p> <p>Judge Jones has handled thousands of cases and presided over hundreds of jury and non-jury trials, motion hearings, and summary judgment proceedings. He is proud to have served as the Second Circuit's Mental Health Court Judge for five years, where he helped hundreds of individuals get the treatment they needed and avoid criminal charges.</p> <p>As the General Counsel for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Judge Jones provided legal and ethical guidance to FDLE's command staff and oversaw the day-to-day functions of the Office of General Counsel by managing the agency's five regional legal advisors, twelve assistant general counsels, and associated staff. Judge Jones also served as the Legal Advisor for the Florida Accreditation Commission and the General Counsel for the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission.</p> <p>Judge Jones began his legal career as an Assistant State Attorney in the Second Judicial Circuit. As an Assistant State Attorney, he handled thousands of cases ranging from driving with a suspended license to first degree murder. His time as an Assistant State Attorney provided him with invaluable courtroom experience.</p> |
| <b>Employment</b>                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2nd Judicial Circuit, <i>July 2025 - Present</i>: Circuit Judge</li> <li>• Leon County Court, <i>July 2020 - July 2025</i>: Leon County Judge</li> <li>• Florida Department of Law Enforcement, <i>August 2015 - June 2020</i>: General Counsel</li> <li>• Florida Department of Law Enforcement, <i>October 2009 - August 2015</i>: Regional Legal Advisor</li> <li>• Second Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office, <i>March 2004 - October 2009</i>: Assistant State Attorney</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Education</b>                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Florida State University College of Law, <i>Juris Doctor, December 2003</i></li> <li>• University of Florida, <i>B.A. Criminology, May 2000</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |



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### STEPHANIE A. CAGER

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| <b>Amount Raised</b>                                                     | \$3,271.00 (monetary contributions), \$10,000.00 (loans), \$0.00 (in-kind contributions)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Campaign Website</b>                                                  | <a href="#">Stephanie Cager for Circuit Judge</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Background</b><br><i>(pulled from publicly available information)</i> | <p>Florida Bar Admittance: 04/20/2020</p> <p>As a proud graduate of the FAMU College of Law, Stephanie Cager possesses the deep legal foundation and local roots necessary to serve our community with distinction. She is committed to upholding the rule of law with integrity and ensuring that every individual who enters her courtroom is treated with dignity and impartiality. Her experience across the North Florida legal landscape has prepared her to manage a docket with the efficiency and fairness our justice system requires.</p>                                                                                             |
| <b>Employment</b>                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children's Home Society of Florida, <i>March 2026 - Present</i>: Senior Vice President of Legal Affairs</li><li>• State of Florida Department of Health, <i>March 2024 - March 2026</i>: Chief Legal Counsel – Contracts and Transactions<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <i>October 2022 - March 2024</i>: Senior Attorney</li><li>◦ <i>November 2021 - October 2022</i>: OPS Attorney</li></ul></li><li>• Children's Home Society of Florida, <i>May 2019 - November 2021</i>: Paralegal</li><li>• Garden of Eden Medical Group, <i>March 2019 - July 2021</i>: Transactions Attorney</li></ul> |
| <b>Education</b>                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Florida A &amp; M University College of Law, <i>Juris Doctorate, December 2018</i></li><li>• Tuskegee University, <i>B.A., History</i></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

*This document is provided for informational purposes only and does not advocate for or against the measure. For official ballot language and additional information, contact the Leon County Supervisor of Elections.*