

Judicial Profile of Judge Rosemarie Scher

By: Robert Glass

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Judge Rosemarie Scher is an actual Florida native! She was born in Fort Lauderdale then moved as a toddler to Upstate New York where she resided until she was 9 years old. She returned to Broward County in the 4th grade and has lived here ever since. In pursuit of a degree in finance at Florida Atlantic University, Judge Scher enrolled in a business law class in her junior year. Midway through the semester, she realized that her future was in the law, not finance, and she decided her goal was to one day become a judge.

After receiving her Bachelors in Business Administration from FAU, Judge Scher jettisoned the idea of a career in finance and matriculated to the University of Florida's Levin College of Law. Judge Scher thought she would pursue a career in criminal law, but her plans changed after graduation. After less than a year with Henry Laffer, Esquire, a sole practitioner specializing in personal injury, she left to pursue trial experience by joining Kubicki Draper in 1996. She "loved the civil litigation," and under her mentor, Hubert McGinley, Judge Scher developed a practice in insurance defense, professional malpractice, and general commercial litigation.

Eleven years later, Judge Scher left Kubicki Draper, realizing that she would need to broaden her horizons to achieve her goal of becoming a judge. Thus, she hung out her shingle and went solo. After a few months of being on her own, however, Judge Scher decided to make yet another major change in her professional life. This time, she leapt head first into the practice of family law, joining Fisher & Bendeck in what she described as a "chance of a lifetime." A year later, she left Fisher & Bendeck and rejoined her old mentor, and now close friend, Hubert McGinley at his new firm, Schwed McGinley & Kahle. Though she practiced family law only for a short time, her training with Odette and Jeff was invaluable.

Meanwhile, Judge Scher also became a Palm Beach County Traffic Hearing Officer in 2005. She described this experience as excellent preparation for her role on the bench. Working almost exclusively with pro se litigants, Judge Scher learned to be decisive while making sure each litigant had a fair hearing. Judge Scher's dreams of becoming a judge were finally realized on August 31 of last year, when Governor Scott appointed her to the Circuit Court. When the Governor called, Judge Scher initially thought one of her friends was playing a joke on her. Already overwhelmed, she then realized she had one month to prepare for and finish an eight-day trial and wind down her practice.

Thirty days later, she walked onto the dais in the South County Courthouse and began presiding over family and probate cases. While all of the judges have been ready to lend a hand while she learns the ropes, Judge Martz and Judge Colin have gone "above and beyond" in helping her transition to her new position. She describes her fellow South County judges as being like her new family. Judge Scher also has nothing but praise for South County practitioners, who she describes as extremely "patient, professional, and kind" in educating her on the finer points of family and probate law.

After nearly eight months on the bench, being a judge is better than Judge Scher could have imagined. She expressed that the hardest part so far has been balancing the large number of cases with the limited number of hours in a day. Judge Scher wants to be able to hear litigants sooner and give them as much time as they think they need.

Judge Scher shares her love of the law with her husband Brian, a partner at Scher & Meltzer in West Palm Beach. The Scher's spend their free time hiking and cycling and can often be spotted taking long walks on Saturday morning to one of their favorite breakfast spots. Judge Scher is also an avid baker. The Scher household is ruled by Annabelle, the family pug. Annabelle's least favorite time of year is the annual Florida Judicial College, when Judge Scher must leave her "daughter" at home for a week.

After meeting Judge Scher, it is apparent that she is a committed public servant with a passion for the profession. Her lifelong commitment to becoming a judge is an immense benefit to the Fifteenth Circuit, the Bar, and the citizens of Palm Beach County.

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