

## Judge Laura Laurie – Judicial Profile

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Appointed by Governor DeSantis to the Circuit Court bench in August 2020, Judge Laura Laurie replaced Judge Edward Artau who was elevated to the 4<sup>th</sup> DCA. It was a few years ago when Judge Laurie first made the decision to become a judge and continue her legal career in public service. Judge Laurie requested August 31, 2020, her father's birthday, to be sworn into office. It was her father, a Major in the Marine Corp. that instilled in her public service and professional career goals, urging her to be self-supporting and not rely on others.

Judge Laurie was born in Bellville, Texas but was raised in Arcadia, Florida where her family owned and operated a citrus grove. She has a brother who serves as a police officer and a sister who is a practicing dentist. During her JNC interview, Judge Laurie told the commissioners that she is well accustomed to hard work and had numerous jobs during her lifetime including "digging ditches." Even while at college, Judge Laurie continued to help on her family's farm. In her youth, Judge Laurie wanted to become a veterinarian, however she soon learned that she was not keen on biology. She then decided to pursue her bachelor's degree at Florida Gulf Coast University in business management as it would provide her with a well-rounded curriculum, which would always be useful in any career she pursued. During college, Judge Laurie worked for a criminal defense attorney which she found intriguing. With the encouragement of her father, Judge Laurie went on to pursue a legal education at Nova Southeastern University School of Law. During law school, Judge Laurie interned with the State Attorney's office and upon graduation, continued there where she rose to Chief of Traffic Homicide and Chief of the Felony Trial Unit before ascending to the bench.

As a practicing lawyer, Judge Laurie frequently appeared in front of Judge Joseph Marx. She admired Judge Marx' demeanor and felt she would like to emulate his judicial qualities if one day, she became a judge. She considered Judge Marx to be patient, humble, and respected for the way he ran his courtroom. Judge Laurie had trouble naming only one judge who she admired because she considers our circuit to have so many great judges, many of whom have lent her a helping hand in her new judicial role.

Judge Laurie encourages practitioners who come before her to treat one another with respect and professionalism, and to be well prepared when entering the courtroom. She appreciates receiving case law in advance of hearings, which she diligently reviews, along with any memorandum submitted. Judge Laurie does not take kindly to unprofessionalism in the courtroom including lawyers bickering with one another, cutting each other off, and talking over each other or herself. She would like to be thought of as humble, unpretentious and someone who has worked very hard for her achievements. Judge Laurie is respectful to all parties, well prepared, and organized. With a caseload of over 2000 cases, Judge Laurie greatly appreciates the case managers who assist her. After a full day of work at the courthouse, then tending to her family, Judge Laurie typically works another few hours every night to make sure she is fully prepared for each case that comes before her. While being a judge is a high pressure, demanding, time-consuming career, Judge Laurie enjoys the honor and privilege of serving her community.

Having spent her career in criminal court, the transition to her current position in the family and probate divisions have been a big adjustment but she enjoys the challenge of learning new areas of the law. She likes being able to help people reach a resolution especially in families where children are involved. It is important to Judge Laurie that people have access to the courts and know that she is listening and concerned. Judge Laurie looks forward to serving in other divisions in the future as well.

Judge Laurie and her husband are blessed with a young daughter and son. Judge Laurie's children are mindful that her new judicial role requires a large time commitment which they are understanding and supportive of.

On behalf of the Judicial Relations Committee and Palm Beach County Bar Association, we welcome Judge Laura Laurie to the Bench and look forward to her dedicated service, commitment and contribution to the local bar and community at large in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.