

Written by: Kalinthia Dillard (on behalf of the Judicial Relations Committee)

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Judge Lauren Burke is a dedicated public servant and former prosecutor who recently marked her second anniversary as a County Judge within the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Judge Burke was born and raised in Palm Beach County and attended Pope John Paul II High School while working as a lifeguard.

Judge Burke's parents-- both educators-- taught her the importance of giving back to this community. Her parents modeled the Golden Rule in their personal and private lives and instilled in her and her two sisters a commitment to making a difference in the world. Indeed, the three high-achieving siblings have continued the family legacy of public service, with both of her sisters holding the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard (**equivalent** to the rank of Major in the other Armed Services) and Judge Burke working as a prosecutor and judge. The example set by her parents led Judge Burke to adopt the guiding principle of "be civil and treat others with respect."

Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Judge Burke to the bench on April 14, 2022. Before being appointed, she attended Boston College and the Florida State University College of Law. Upon graduating in 2005, Judge Burke commenced her legal career as an assistant state attorney in Palm Beach County. During her seventeen-year service with the state attorney's office, Judge Burke spent five years with the Organized Crime Unit where she prosecuted serious criminal matters, including cases involving narcotics trafficking and racketeering, and seven years with the Homicide Unit. As a long-time prosecutor, she developed a reputation for being professional and well-prepared and learned the skills needed to be an effective judge. She currently oversees the Domestic Violence Division (DV/TD), where she presides over matters relating to repeat violence, stalking, violation of injunction cases, and criminal misdemeanor cases.

Judge Burke's passion for her judicial position is profoundly evident to anyone who speaks to her about her profession. She values the role of judges in a fair and impartial judicial system and the perspective offered by female judges who bring awareness to issues impacting women, mothers, and children. Her passion for her work is only surpassed by her devotion to her family and her faith. She enjoys a balanced life with her husband, a digital editor, and their active four and nine-year-old sons, who are avid basketball players and swimmers.

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Kalinthia Dillard is the General Counsel of the Palm Beach County Office of Inspector General. She can be reached at [kdillard1@pbc.gov](mailto:kdillard1@pbc.gov).