

Nakita Perryman Blocton  
Candidate for Circuit Court, Place 20  
Gatekeepers 2<sup>nd</sup> Questionnaire Responses

1. Why are you pursuing this office? The seat I am running for is in the Domestic Relations Division (Divorce Court), which deals with families and children. As an attorney, I have personally seen the bias and cronyism that take place in the courtroom. I firmly believe that everyone is entitled to a fair and impartial trial and the courtroom is no place for a buddy system. I have been a strong advocate for children and families for years. I have practiced Family Law for 13 years; served as a Daily Master in Divorce Court for over 7 years where I sit hear and make recommendations regarding what temporary orders should be entered; serve as special sitting Judge in Family Court; and was voted as one of the Top Attorneys in Family Law as featured in *Birmingham Magazine*. I have tried hundreds of cases on both the appellate and trial court level. Prior to becoming an attorney, I served as a Regional Foster Care Recruiter for Children's Aid Society. In addition to my professional experience, I am a mother and wife who cares and can relate to the families that come before the court. I know what it's like to be a litigant in the courtroom and understand the need for families to receive closure in an expeditious yet fair and caring manner. I am committed to ensuring everyone receives fair and equal treatment while upholding the law and maintaining the integrity of the court.
2. Who are your five largest contributors? Joseph M. Szczech (Husband); Broderick "Rickey" Smiley; Thomas "Tom" Williams, Jr.; Bobby L. Davis (cousin); and Farris Riley & Pitt LLP.
3. What is your judicial philosophy? Everyone may not be able to afford an attorney, but everyone is entitled to a fair and impartial judge. I also believe that a judge should have integrity, a good judicial temperament, and have the ability to not only know and interpret the law, but also be committed to improving the law by networking with the community, community leaders, churches, legislators, and public service organizations.
4. What are your 3 highest priorities in your judicial practice? Fairness, Integrity, and getting the wheels of justice moving again by ensuring that every case is treated as a priority and handled as expeditiously as possible.

5. Where do you find motivation and inspiration for your job? God, family and seeing the benefits of the work I have done in helping others.
6. Approximately how many cases have you been the lead counsel on? Approximately 2,000 cases throughout the state of Alabama, which includes both state and federal court.
7. If we were to inquire with opposing counsel with whom you previously opposed in a trial or legal proceedings, what do you think would be their characterization of you? How would you describe yourself? Opposing counsel(s) on cases I have handled would say that I am a strong advocate for my clients while remaining respectful to opposing counsel, other parties, witnesses, and the court. I am a hard worker who is always prepared for trial and I care about the families I represent. I describe myself as being a person of faith who prays over every case I have ever handled as I recognize that I am dealing with real people and the impact a case can have long after my services are over. I firmly believe that you can divorce a family without destroying a family. As such, I do not believe in winning by any means necessary, but take the best approach to accomplish the best result not only for my client, but also for the family. I do not take unnecessary measures merely to harass or intimidate another party or opposing counsel. I do what is reasonable and necessary. I realize people need closure and families with children must learn how to still function as a family even after divorce.
8. Describe your current family life. I have been married to my husband Joe for 12 years. I have one (1) daughter who is 22 years old and a pre-med student at Case Western Reserve University.
9. What are some of your community activities? I organized and led a free "Ask the Lawyer" program that provided free legal advice and Living Wills to various residents throughout Jefferson County. I was awarded the Julian Bond Empowerment Award by the NAACP for the work and services I rendered through the "Ask the Lawyer" program. I was a 2016 Honoree of the Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program for the free legal services I have provided through the Birmingham Bar Association.

I have organized and participated in several voter registration drives and high school and collegiate job shadow and internship programs; helped with community clean up, Pratt City Tornado Relief and recently with Project Hopewell Tornado Relief. I have served as a guest speaker for various schools, organizations and community forums. I was an NAACP 2014

Wonderful Outstanding Women (WOW) Honoree for all the work I have done for and in the community. I have received several other honors and awards which are noted on my resume.

10. What Church do you attend and what is your pastor's name? Cathedral of the Cross A.O.H. Church of God where Bishop Phillip Wright is Pastor.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nakita Perryman Blocton  
Candidate for Circuit Court Judge, Pl 20