

## **1. Why are you pursuing this office?**

I am offering myself for service as Circuit Court Judge because it is important that we have quality candidates on the bench who have a heart to serve the people of Jefferson County. Judges must engage the communities in which they represent. I often volunteer in local school systems and we do not have the level of involvement that we should have from our local bench. I want to serve and continue my relationships with local schools so that we can provide a needed dialogue with our youth. It is so important that our leaders make themselves visible and accessible to our youth; and educate the public on the justice system. Unfortunately, the sentiment of unfairness is justified in certain areas; however, the African-American community must have a better understanding of our justice system prior to being involved in it. The more knowledge our community receives relating to the inner workings of the justice system, as well as, being familiar with those elected officials who serve in the justice system, it will assist in curbing those sentiments that the justice system is unfair.

## **2. Who are your five largest contributors?**

- a. Bradley Arant Boult Cummings law firm
- b. Ifediba Law Group law firm
- c. Balch & Bingham law firm
- d. Morris Haynes Wheelles & Knowles law firm
- e. Fuston Petway & French law firm

## **3. What is your judicial philosophy?**

I believe in a combination of judicial restraint, but recognize that the Constitution is a living document that has to evolve and adapt to modern society. Therefore, I strongly believe that Judges must interpret the law and not legislate from the bench, I do recognize that society is constantly evolving.

## **4. What are your 3 highest priorities in your judicial practice?**

I will (1) continue my efforts to engage the public and remain visible in the schools in order to positively affect the relationship between the community and our legal justice system ; (2) incorporate mentoring programs in our schools in order to address increasing violent crimes involving young individuals ; and (3) implementing procedures to make the courthouse more efficient so that the public

can have a better experience when visiting the courthouse and when involved in court proceedings.

**5. Where do you find motivation and inspiration for your job?**

My family and faith. My wife and two children provide the motivation and inspiration to make the right decisions, maintain the needed temperament and strive hard to be the best attorney I can be. I am constantly guided by my faith to ensure that I remain a balanced and successful individual without compromising my integrity.

**6. Approximately how many cases have you been the lead counsel on?**

Approximately 500 cases.

**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?**

Zealous advocate that is knowledgeable of the law, but congenial as well.

I would describe myself the same.

**8. Describe your current family life.**

I have been married to Autumn Jeter, a elementary school principal, for 12 years and we have two sons Jordan (age 10) and Joshua (age 7).

**9. What are some of your community activities?**

I volunteer in several local schools. I serve on the Board of Directors of the Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority, as well as, the Hoover Chamber of Commerce. I previously served on the Junior Board of Directors of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

In addition, I help to mentor women and people of color in my field by participating in the University of Alabama Shadow Program, in which minority students are permitted to “shadow” me and my practice at various times throughout the year. These students are permitted to attend court hearings, depositions and client meetings with me in order to get a feel of the practice of law. In addition, they are able to communicate with me throughout the year, ask questions and seek guidance on issues relating to the practice of law.

**10. What church do you attend and what is your pastor's name?**

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Brighton, Alabama. Pastor is Rev. David Simpson.