

1. Why are you pursuing this office? I have a heart to serve, a particular background in civil law which makes me uniquely qualified as a civil Circuit Judge, because I was asked to serve by several Circuit judges including retired Judges Scott Vowell and Tom King Jr., and because I was selected by the non-partisan Jefferson County Judicial Commission and our Governor, as the top candidate to serve in this position. Although I have served only one year, I have been honored by my fellow lawyers in Jefferson County by being selected as receiving the most “highly qualified” votes, leading each and every other judicial candidate, in the Jefferson County Bar poll, so I believe the lawyers in my courtroom on all sides have been very satisfied with my ability to administer justice fairly and timely.
2. Who are your five largest contributors? Lightfoot Franklin; Hare Wynn; Shunnarah Personal Injury Lawyers (in kind contribution only); Cunningham Bounds; and Wallace Jordan.
3. What is your judicial philosophy? To administer justice fairly, equitably and timely, in accordance with the rule of law. I believe my Courtroom should be accessible to the public and I strive to maintain a friendly, efficient and very capable staff that understands its mission is to serve the public. As a Circuit Court Judge of the Civil Division, I administrate and handle civil cases with values over \$10,000.00. I have over 27 years of experience with civil cases and I believe a judge should have extensive experience as a lawyer with handling the types of cases he or she will preside over as a judge.
4. What are your 3 highest priorities for your judicial practice?
 1. To ensure fairness and justice – and to make sure the lawyers and parties know they are no favorites in my courtroom – all are equal under the law;
 2. to be prepared for all hearings and trials; and
 3. To make timely rulings in accordance with the rule of law.
5. Where do you find motivation and inspiration for your job? I have found great motivation and inspiration to be a judge from retired Judges Scott Vowell and Tom King Jr., who recognized my courtroom abilities and experience, and encouraged me to be a Circuit Judge. My wife, Mary Frances Thetford, has also been a source of constant motivation and inspiration. When I decided to apply to the Jefferson County Judicial Commission, which is tasked with selecting the top candidates to replace a retiring judge, I was met with an outpouring of support from lawyers I handled cases with, and lawyers I handled cases against, and encouragement from my fellow lawyers in the bar has been a great motivation. It was very rewarding for me to know that my fellow lawyers recently voted me the “most qualified” of any judge in this current election cycle, and this continues to motivate and inspire me.
6. I would estimate I was lead counsel in approximately 1,400 civil cases.
7. I am proud to say that lawyers who handled cases against me are among my strongest supporters. I believe they would tell you that I was imminently fair, honest, well prepared, and

mostly successful. They have told me I have not only the heart and compassion to be a good judge, but also unequalled courtroom experience.

8. I am happily married to Mary Frances Thetford, and am the proud father of two children who are in college. My son Peyton graduated from Birmingham Southern College last May and is currently enrolled in Samford's Nursing school. My son Tommy is a junior at Washington and Lee University, where he won two NCAA D3 National championships, was an All-American and was an Academic All-American in swimming last year. He competed in the Olympic swimming trials last summer.
9. In the past I have participated in Habitat for Humanity, Firehouse Shelter, Stop Hunger Now, and have participated in Birmingham Bar Association's Service Projects. I have also played in a band which supplied music to several charities.
10. Canterbury United Methodist Church; Rev. Dale Cohen, Rev. Sam Williamson; and Rev. Drew Clayton.