

**For Immediate Release
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BROWARD ATTORNEY MICHAEL AHEARN ANNOUNCES JUDICIAL CANDIDACY

20+year Lawyer Will Seek Circuit Position of Retiring Judge Sandra Perlman

Veteran local attorney Michael Ahearn announced today he will run for circuit judge in the open 17th Circuit, Group 51 seat being vacated by Judge Sandra Perlman.

Perhaps best known for his work on behalf of other candidates for office, Ahearn said his experience with Broward's rough-and-tumble politics serve as motivation for him to seek his own position on the Broward bench.

"I believe firmly in the rule of law," Ahearn said. "We've seen what can happen when people disregard that underlying principle of our country and society. In a time of unprecedented political division, we must remember that the rule of law empowers us all to settle disputes peacefully and to hold people accountable when they harm others."

Ahearn said he believes his life experience and temperament would make him effective as a judge.

"Judges have tremendous power over people's lives, and it's important to have humility and humanity in exercising that power," Ahearn said. "I'm far from perfect – nobody is – but I believe in second chances. I unfortunately saw firsthand the devastation that addiction can cause as my two older brothers – who are no longer with us – battled it. That's why I believe there are situations when alternative sentences should be considered for those charged with nonviolent drug crimes and who want to turn their lives around."

(more)

Ahearn Announces Judicial Candidacy

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Ahearn also says his experience with battling – and overcoming – serious health conditions show he has the tenacity and determination to keep up with the demands of judicial service.

“I’m currently living with polycystic kidney disease, which means self-dialysis at home,. I’ve also beaten parathyroid cancer, and through all of this I’ve kept my law practice going and managed judicial campaigns.”

“I also hope I can be an example to others who face similar challenges,” Ahearn said. “Whatever you may be dealing with, it’s important to remember you can still live a full life and pursue your dreams.”

A native of New York, Ahearn has lived in Broward County since 1979. He is a 1989 graduate of Cardinal Gibbons High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Fordham University, 1994 (and a juris doctorate from St. Thomas University in 1997). He and his wife, Megan, have been married for 12 years and make their home in Wilton Manors. They are passionate about rescuing dogs and cats.

Additionally, Ahearn has been active in several local charities, including serving as President of the Fort Lauderdale Emerald Society and the Brian Piccolo Chapter of the National Football Foundation. Both organizations raise scholarship funds to help local high school with college expenses.

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