

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION
STATE OF FLORIDA

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE
THE HONORABLE VEGINA T. HAWKINS
JQC No. 2019-351

SC19-1193

MOTION TO EXPAND CHARACTER WITNESSES

Comes Now the Respondent Judge, Vegina T. Hawkins (hereinafter “Respondent”), and respectfully moves for an Order expanding the Respondent’s Character List from 3 to 6 witnesses, and as grounds therefore, would aver as follows:

1. That this matter has been set for two days of trial beginning February 13, 2020;
2. That Respondent has been suspended, without pay, from her judicial office, by the Supreme Court, since July 19, 2019;
3. That the “general policy” of the Hearing Panel, in the past, has been to limit character witnesses to three individuals; however, there does not exist any rule or statute that so limits the number of those witnesses;
4. That in the instant case, based upon the immediate suspension of this Respondent, it is apparent that any resolution by agreement between the parties, at least at the present time, will not be successful short of removal;
5. That the character witnesses sought to be heard on behalf of Respondent will not be overly long or drawn out, but will track her performance on the bench in her short time thereon, her history as a practicing attorney and prosecutor prior to elevation to the bench, her history as an employee of

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the Broward Sheriff's Office, her community involvement, and her family and religious support in the community as testaments to her fitness as a Circuit Court Judge;

6. That expanding the current "policy" to permit six witnesses limited solely to her character as a person and public official, will not unduly protract this hearing, but on the contrary, will provide a wide spectrum of positive life experiences for this Hearing Panel to consider when weighing her credibility and the merits of this case as a whole; it is anticipated that the additional three witnesses requested herein will consume no more than a total of 20-25 minutes of hearing time, in total, over the three already permitted;

7. That permitting this small expansion will be helpful, and necessary, to allow Respondent to show to the Hearing Panel, the respect with which she is held and her wide-ranging involvement in her Broward County community as a judge, as a law enforcement officer, as an attorney, and as a person, and will do neither violence nor prejudice to the Hearing Panel's responsibilities, nor to the JQC as a prosecuting authority in seeking a fair resolution of this extremely serious matter to everyone concerned;

8. Other grounds to be argued ore tenus, if necessary.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished this 21st day of December, 2019, to:

Honorable Kevin Emas, (Chair)
HEARING PANEL CHAIR
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Respectfully submitted,

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/S/ J. David Bogenschutz

BY: _____
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