

Judge William P. Levens

Judge William P. Levens was born in Mt. Vernon, Illinois on May 11, 1947. His family lived in several Midwestern states until they moved to the Tampa Bay area in 1961. He graduated from Clearwater High School in 1965. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida in 1969, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Speech. He received his law degree from the University of Florida College of Law in 1972, as a member and officer of Phi Delta Phi (legal honorary society).

Following law school, Judge Levens was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and attended officer basic training as a Military Police Officer at Ft. Gordon (Augusta) Georgia. After completing his MP training, he was assigned to the 810th Military Police Company, U.S. Army Reserves, until receiving an honorable discharge with the rank of captain in 1982.

Judge Levens began his legal career in 1972 with the firm of Barrs, Melendi, Williamson & Levens. He remained with that firm until he left to form his own sole practice in 1986. Judge Levens had a general trial practice which emphasized Workers Compensation (Board Certified) and Social Security Disability law.

Judge Levens has been in a variety of professional and civic organizations. He is or has been a member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association (including Membership Chair), President and active member of the J. Clifford Cheatwood Inn of Court, member of the Family Law Inn of Court, and is both a Certified Judicial Mentor and the Circuit Coordinator of assigning and overseeing the mentoring of new judges. He has been Judicial Chair of the Bench-Bar Conference for several years, a member of the HCBA Liberty Bell Selection Committee, and as an attorney was Chair of the HCBA Workers Compensation Section (two non-successive terms). He has spoken to trial lawyer groups, insurance claims representatives, and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. In 2013 the Tampa Bay chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) selected him as Jurist of the Year. He is a Certified Circuit Civil Mediator and mediates both state and federal cases.

He is an Eagle Scout, former Cub Scout Packmaster, and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow. He served as an officer and charter Board Member of ALPHA House. He is an active member of his church, where he currently serves on the music team.

Judge Levens was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2000 and was retained by election in 2002, 2008, and 2014. He has been assigned to the Family Law Division (handling divorce, custody, paternity, and visitation issues), the General Civil Division, the Civil Trial Division (handling complex, multi-party and multi-week trials), and the Plant City Division (handling family cases, domestic violence, probate matters, and civil cases). He has been married to Sheri Kooker Levens since 1971, and they have two adult children and 3 grandchildren.

