

Judicial Profile

John Parnofiello

“Justice in the life and conduct of the State is possible only as first it resides in the hearts and souls of the citizens.” - Plato

Judge John Parnofiello, the newest jurist appointed to the Palm Beach County bench exemplifies justice as envisioned by Plato. Watching his courtroom, there is no doubt that Judge Parnofiello is committed to the search for justice and communicating to all litigants in his courtroom the reasons for his rulings and the logic and law that underpins his analysis.

Raised in Boca Raton, John is a rare native to Palm Beach County. The son of an accountant and chief financial officer for a nationwide company and a homemaker, John always knew that he wanted to pursue justice on behalf of his fellow citizens. John saw his path of justice bringing him to the Federal Bureau of investigation, fighting for justice in the heart of our country.

John attended the University of Florida for both his bachelor’s degree and his juris doctorate. From Gainesville, John returned to his hometown to begin his legal career as an Assistant State Attorney in Palm Beach County, where I had the pleasure of serving alongside him for almost eight (8) years. As a prosecutor, pursuing justice in the courtroom instead of the streets, John always exemplified professionalism, knowledge, confidence, and common sense. He has a thirst for legal knowledge that is both impressive and inspiring. John began his prosecutorial career prosecuting misdemeanor offense with the seasoned understanding of a far more experienced lawyer. He knew that successfully prosecuting these offenses required not only legal skills, but a sense of compassion and understanding for the human condition. But make no mistake, John was a tough prosecutor and a fierce advocate for the citizens on Palm Beach County.

Aside from a brief stint as an associate at Rosenthal Levy, John has spent his entire 15-year legal career as a prosecutor. Through four (4) different State Attorney administrations, John steadily rose through the ranks of the State Attorney’s Office, becoming chief of the Organized Crime Unit and subsequently reaching the pinnacle of that office, prosecuting homicide offenses. John prosecuted some of this county’s worst offenders, including multiple death penalty cases. By the time the FBI came knocking on John’s door, he was so entrenched in the Palm Beach County justice system that even his former dream job could not divert his focus.

In classic John Parnofiello fashion, he was not nervous about his interview with the Governor. In fact, in preparation for the interview, while John did all of the traditional preparation of a JNC nominee, John also read the Governor’s book. There is no doubt in my mind that John secured his appointment with the Governor by ingratiating himself with a little humor followed by a demonstration of his superior legal knowledge and goals for justice.

In his short time on the county bench, John has committed himself to a swift resolution of the cases before him. He gives all litigants, especially those who represent themselves without counsel, ample time to make their arguments and convey their message to him. But more importantly, John takes the time to explain the law, his rulings, and his logic to the litigants.

Like many of the renowned jurists before him, John recognizes that his courtroom is likely the first and sometimes only encounter people will have with the legal system. Therefore, he takes it as his obligation to make sure that citizens appearing before him understand the law and his rulings, even if the decision even if they disagree with his ruling.

If you have not yet introduced yourself to my friend John Parnofiello, I encourage you to do so. You will not be disappointed.