

Judge Stephanie Tew

By: Andrew Loewenstein

Oct. 2024

Appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis in December 2022, Judge Stephanie Tew brings a wealth of unique life experience to the bench. Most know Judge Tew as an exceptional trial lawyer, former Bureau Chief in the Florida Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution, and as a skillful instructor at the National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute. What many do not know is that Judge Tew grew up on a horse ranch in North Carolina, became a competitive dirt track racecar driver at age thirteen, won several national cheerleading competitions in her youth, and was an International Baccalaureate graduate. Judge Tew's diverse life experience enables her to bring a unique perspective to the bench while she fulfills her lifelong dream of being a judge.

Judge Tew knew she wanted to be a judge from a young age. Around age 9, likely inspired by one of her favorite childhood television shows, "The People's Court," Judge Tew told her mom she wanted to "be a judge like Judge Wapner." Her mom swiftly pointed out that she first needed to complete elementary school, middle school, high school, college, and finally, law school. Judge Tew was undeterred by this gauntlet of educational prerequisites and credits her mother for driving the work ethic needed to reach this lifelong goal.

Judge Tew received her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina where she majored in political science. She attended law school at Florida Coastal School of Law where she served as a Certified Legal Intern ("CLI") in the Baker County State Attorney's office. As a CLI in her 3L year, Judge Tew learned how to try cases in Macclenny, FL. After graduation, Judge Tew became an Assistant State Attorney in the 19th Judicial Circuit, where she handled a full felony docket in the Okeechobee branch of the State Attorney's Office. She later became an Assistant Statewide Prosecutor with the Florida Attorney General's Office prosecuting large-scale organized crime throughout the State of Florida. Judge Tew was elevated to Bureau Chief for the West Palm Beach Division, a role in which she served for over eight years.

Judge Tew's favorite thing about being a judge is facilitating the just resolution of cases, while witnessing the "real life" impact our judicial system yields. Judge Tew emphasizes that attorneys must be prepared when they come to court and states, "don't skip from A-Z ... assume the Court has read your papers, but be prepared to present your arguments." Her biggest pet peeve: when attorneys take short cuts and don't follow-through. Judge Tew feels fortunate to have outstanding teachers and mentors among the other county court judges in the 15th Judicial Circuit.

When not wearing her robe, you might run into Judge Tew at a Chris Stapleton performance, a Journey cover band concert, or even a Post Malone show. She greatly enjoys live music, a love of which was inspired by her father's professional achievements as a musician. You might also run into Judge Tew on the ski slopes in the Northeast and out West, catching a Tar Heels basketball game in Chapel Hill, attending her cheerleading team reunion ("Go Tigers"), or traveling with family and friends. Judge Tew feels truly blessed for the opportunity to accomplish her life-long goal of becoming a judge and is dedicated to serving the people of Palm Beach County.

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