

NAME: Lance Tyler
PARTY: Nonpartisan
SEEKING: State Court Judge, Division 4



1. Why are you seeking the office?

Our retiring State Court Bench members mentored a whole generation of trial lawyers, including me. I was blessed to have the opportunity to grow as an attorney while practicing before such great judges. I hope to become your next State Court judge so I can continue their legacy of serving our community, protecting our rights, and preserving the rule of law.

2. What distinguishes your candidacy?

Experience - I am the only candidate in this race who has won jury trials in Gwinnett State Court both as a prosecutor and as criminal defense attorney. I am also the only candidate to win (or even take up) appeals before the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court, including arguing two unanimous landmark decisions that reversed decades of unconstitutional precedent. I'm the only State Court candidate to receive Martindale-Hubbell's "AV Preeminent Judicial Edition" and "Client Champion" rating, Avvo's "Top Attorney" and "Client Choice" awards, be ranked among "Georgia Super Lawyers," and voted "Best of Gwinnett."

3. What is the proper role of a judge in interpreting the laws and Constitution?

This is a trial court division; a trial court judge is bound by our statutory law and precedent established by our higher courts. Failure by a trial court judge to follow existing law makes the judge's decision subject to appeal and reversal by our appellate courts, wastes valuable time, violates people's statutory and constitutional rights, and unnecessarily wastes tax payers' money. That is why actual experience in trials and appeals, and the knowledge that comes from it (not just years as an attorney) is so important for someone seeking this position.

4. What in your life experience makes you believe that you are or would be a good judge?

As a husband, father, grandfather, combat veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division (Airborne Infantry), Gwinnett Sheriff's Field Operations and K-9 Sergeant, Senior Police Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Emergency Medical Instructor, Hall County Sheriff's SWAT sniper, and nationally recognized trial and appellate attorney, I have a long history of service to others. My legal and life experience has taught me to treat everyone with respect, honor our rule of law, and defend the Constitution.

5. What do you think are the attributes of a good judge?

At a minimum, a good judge must be knowledgeable of the law, including statutes, Superior/State Court Rules, procedure, applicable precedent, rules of ethics, judicial canons, and our constitutional rights under both the Georgia Constitution and the U.S. Constitution. A great judge will also have the courage to fairly apply the law without bias or favor, the wisdom to know when moderation is called for, and the resolve to maintain court efficiency and decorum while protecting everyone's right to a fair trial.

6. Please give a 100 word summary of your background.

I grew up a military dependant moving every two to four years with no permanent home. In 1987, I moved to Gwinnett County with my lovely wife, Margie, and began a career in law enforcement. We chose Gwinnett as our permanent home, and the community welcomed us with open arms and open hearts. Together we raised our family of four children. They are now grown and starting families of their own, so it seems only natural that I step up and serve my community in a new way.