



# STEPHEN MOSCA

## Assistant Public Defender

- Q: Do you swear to tell the whole truth, nothing but the truth, so help you God?
- A: I do, but if these questions aren't leading, you may get some narrative, and you know what that means.
- Q: Where did you attend college / law school?
- A: I graduated from the Academy of Aeronautics in Queens, NY in 1979, received a BA in Political Science from Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, GA in 2003, and a JD from Florida Coastal School of Law in 2006.
- Q: What Judge or Attorney would you want to trade places with for a day? Why?
- A: I used to be an engineer and still wake up not believing that I am now an attorney, so, since I really enjoy what I've been doing I can honestly say I don't want to trade places with anyone, even for a day. Well, for one day, maybe Bill Sheppard. Why? He seems to have kept his passion and his ideals intact, does a lot of civil rights work, and looks like the Zig-Zag guy. I could aspire to that.
- Q: Where can we find you on a Friday night?
- A: Do I have a date? Do I have a trial on Monday? If not, I'm home either reading, writing, playing piano or just watching tv.

- Q: Democrat or Republican?
- A: Independent – any party in continuous power eventually becomes somewhat corrupt so I like to keep my options open.
- Q: What is your greatest fear?
- A: Announcing “withhold adjudication” on the record. That's a public-service-lawyer-specific fear.
- Q: Most intimidating Judge / Lawyer in Jacksonville?
- A: Having been practicing for only a couple of years, I don't know that many Judges and attorneys. Fortunately, all that I've come across thus far have been pussycats.
- Q: What is your most treasured possession?
- A: My optimism and passion for my ideals.
- Q: Local legal mentor in your career?
- A: Yeah, I guess I should get one of those. Seriously, the Public Defender's office is full of smart, experienced; accessible attorneys, and I rely on them all from juvenile to homicide and including Bill White. Fred Tromberg, a private practice trial lawyer, Al Chipperfield, Susan Yazgi and Lisa Steely, in particular, have given me some great advice regarding trial practice.

- Q: What or who is the greatest love of your life?
- A: My children, Joseph, Lisa and Kathy.
- Q: If you weren't an attorney, you would be?
- A: A musician, like my parents were, or a novelist, or both! I also wouldn't mind being an English professor; you know, tweed jackets with leather elbow patches, idealistic young people, and tenure.
- Q: Where and when are you the happiest?
- A: Anywhere and any time I can share my passion for something that I care about.
- Q: You may step down now.
- A: Did I get the job? 