

Pam Bondi for Attorney General
Remarks Prepared for Delivery
December 1, 2009

For the past 18 years, I've spent a lot of time in the courtroom, where I have been responsible for protecting the lives and safety of Floridians.

For 18 years, I have had the honor of serving you as a prosecutor on the front lines of justice, and have seen, up-close, what happens when real life in the real world takes an ugly turn.

Here, in the courtroom, I have prepared, tried and prosecuted drug dealers who poison us, gang members who threaten us, and con men who cheat us. I've taken on monsters who have brutalized our moms, and predators who have preyed on our children. And to those who have murdered without remorse, I've had no remorse in sending them to prison and doing everything I can to keep them off our streets.

I refuse to look the other way when innocent people are in trouble, or when lives are turned upside down because someone else did something utterly horrible. My job is not only to prosecute criminals, but also to seek justice for all, wherever that path may lead.

Today, it's clear to me that our state and our families are facing unprecedented challenges. Unfortunately, many of these challenges have been caused by politicians.

What we need are courageous leaders who are not afraid to tell the truth, make a real difference, and stand up for you. I have resolved it's time to do my part.

After 18 years as a prosecutor responsible for upholding the law and protecting the people of Florida, I am announcing today my candidacy to seek the Republican nomination for Attorney General.

As a fourth generation Floridian who comes from a family of school teachers, educators, and community leaders, I believe public service and helping others are among life's highest callings.

I graduated from the University of Florida, and Stetson College of Law, and spent nearly two decades in the Office of the State Attorney in Tampa.

I helped budget and manage one of the largest State Attorney's offices in Florida, worked with other law enforcement agencies to help them understand open records laws and improve investigations, and taught many of our citizens how to protect themselves against fraud and identity theft.

I have also been called upon hundreds of times by major national news networks to provide legal analysis on some of the most important cases of our time.

I am not a career politician but a prosecutor and advocate determined to stand up for you.

As your Attorney General, I will make sure your safety and well-being are the highest priorities of government. This means ensuring proper funding of law enforcement and corrections, while continuing our fight against Medicaid and mortgage fraud, gangs, domestic violence, Internet crime, and bullying in our schools.

And, I will protect your Second Amendment right to self-defense.

These are the priorities and principles from which I will not waver.

As a member of the Cabinet, my first efforts will be directed to Florida's economy because when we're not working, not much else works either.

I want you to know I am pro-business, pro-jobs, and pro-family. I believe in keeping spending in check and taxes low.

I will help businesses grow jobs instead of punishing them with regulations; and I will prosecute those who threaten and defraud businesses, investors and seniors.

Finally, we must hold government, and all those within it, accountable by demanding full transparency.

I will never shy away from asking tough questions until we have the answers. That's the way I was raised, the way I was trained, and the way I will lead. When you work in the courtroom as a prosecutor, you come to appreciate how you can make the law work for those who have nowhere else to turn.

The courtroom, and your safety, are not places for on-the-job training by a career politician, or anyone else. This is serious business. The consequences of failure are too serious and far too real.

Rest assured that as your Attorney General, I will not be outworked, out-lawyered, or outdone in defense of the people of this state. I will fight for you when everything is on the line.

I will wage a campaign that appeals to the very best in all of us devoted to protecting your family, enhancing our state, and safeguarding a future we've worked hard for.

The times demand it. Our conscience compels it. Our families deserve it.

The campaign for Florida's future begins today. Join me.

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