Leslie R. Hoffman graduated with honors from the University of Florida in 1992 with her Bachelor of Science in Accounting and minor in Criminology. Following completion of an internship with the Florida House of Representatives, Judge Hoffman attended the University of Florida, Levin College of Law, where she earned her J.D. with high honors in 1997. Judge Hoffman was a member of the senior editorial board of the University of Florida Law Review, Magister of the Phi Delta Phi National Honor Society, and member of the Order of the Coif.

Judge Hoffman clerked from 1997-1999 for the Hon. William Terrell Hodges, United States District Judge, in Jacksonville, Florida. In September 1999, Judge Hoffman began work with the law firm Steptoe & Johnson, LLP in Washington, D.C. Her practice areas included employee benefits and employment litigation (state and federal). In mid-2004, Judge Hoffman returned to Florida, and from August 2004 to April 2005, worked in the employment litigation section of the law firm Morgan Lewis and Bockius, LLP in Miami, Florida. In July 2005, Judge Hoffman became the career law clerk for the Hon. William Terrell Hodges, United States District Judge, in Ocala, Florida.

In May 2016, Judge Hoffman relocated to Orlando, Florida and became the Operations Manager, and later the Administrative Services Manager, for the Middle District of Florida's Clerk's Office. Judge Hoffman remained as the Administrative Services Manager until her appointment as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division, on March 1, 2019.