



## **Supreme Court JNC FAQ**

### **1. Why are these three justices leaving the Florida Supreme Court?**

- The Florida Constitution provides for mandatory retirement of justices who have reached the age of 70. A justice who reaches the age of 70 more than half way through a six-year term may complete that term. Justices Pariente, Lewis, and Quince each reached the age of 70 during the second half of their current six-year terms, which will conclude on January 7, 2019.

### **2. When were these justices appointed?**

- All three justices were appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Governor Chiles during the last two years of his second term (Justice Pariente: December 10, 1997; Justice Lewis: December 7, 1998; Justice Quince: December 8, 1998). Justices Lewis and Quince were appointed in the last full month of his term, shortly before Governor Chiles passed away on December 12, 1998.

### **3. What is the process for appointing a Supreme Court Justice?**

- Each Supreme Court justice is appointed by the governor from a list of 3-6 persons nominated by the Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC). The JNC must solicit applications for each vacancy, contact the applicants' references and others with information relevant to their potential judicial service, review the results of background screening conducted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and any disciplinary files on the applicants maintained by The Florida Bar or the Judicial Qualifications Commission. The JNC also interviews applicants before deliberating and making its nominations to the governor. The governor must appoint exclusively from the list of nominees certified by the JNC.
- The entire process can take up to four months: the Florida Constitution provides up to 60 days for the JNC to complete its process and up to 60 days for the governor to make the appointment after the nominees have been certified to the governor by the JNC.

#### 4. How are the members of the JNC selected?

- The nine members of the JNC are appointed by the governor to serve four-year staggered terms. Four of the nine members must be appointed by the governor from a list of attorneys nominated by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar.

#### 5. When was the JNC convened to fill previous vacancies on the Supreme Court?

<u>Vacancy</u>	<u>JNC Convened</u>	<u>Applications Due</u>	<u>Nominations Certified</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
Adkins retirement	August 1986	September 15, 1986	November 8, 1986	Grimes appointed January 30, 1987
Boyd retirement	August 1986	September 15, 1986	November 8, 1986	Kogan appointed January 30, 1987
Ehrlich retirement	September 1990	October 15, 1990	November 14, 1990	Harding appointed January 22, 1991
Kogan retirement	July 1998	August 17, 1998	October 12, 1998	Lewis appointed December 7, 1998
Overton retirement	August 1998	October 5, 1998	October 26, 1998	Quince appointed December 8, 1998