

**THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION  
ANNOUNCES APPLICANTS FOR COUNTY COURT AND  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDICIAL VACANCIES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2022

CONTACT: Christine Derr, Chair, [christine@harrishunt derr.com](mailto:christine@harrishunt derr.com)  
Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission  
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As a result of the county court vacancy created by the elevation of the Honorable James Moody, III and the circuit court vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Lamar Battles in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Governor Ron DeSantis has convened the Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission to select and submit the names of highly qualified candidates to fill the vacancies. The following individuals have applied for the vacancies:

**County Court Vacancy Applicants**

Emmett Chris Abdoney  
Sara Peacock Bartos  
Christine Shiver Brown  
Cory Chandler  
Travis Jarod Coy  
Cornelius C. Demps  
Matthew Lee Felix  
Eilam Michael Isaak  
Joseph Kudia  
Victoria McNeal  
Diego Novaes  
Marc Makhholm  
Elba Martin  
Donald Allen Mihokovich  
Christina A. Pawlus  
Shirin Rustomji

**Circuit Court Vacancy Applicants**

Emmett Chris Abdoney  
Sara Peacock Bartos  
Christine Shiver Brown  
Cory Chandler  
Hon. Jessica Costello  
Travis Jarod Coy  
Cornelius C. Demps  
Matthew Lee Felix  
Hon. Michael J. Hooi  
Eilam Michael Isaak  
Joseph Kudia  
Elba Martin  
Donald Allen Mihokovich  
Diego Novaes  
Hon. Cynthia Oster  
Christina A. Pawlus  
Shirin Rustomji  
Lisa Thelwell

The Commission encourages and seeks comments regarding the qualifications of these applicants from the public and from members of the Bench and Bar. Comments may be addressed to Christine Derr, Chair, Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, and emailed to [christine@harrishunt derr.com](mailto:christine@harrishunt derr.com), or mailed to Christine Derr, Wells Fargo Center, 100 South Ashley Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33602. Comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m.** on **May 31, 2022**, to be considered by the Commission.

Interviews will be conducted in early June. Applicants will be contacted to confirm the time and location of the interviews. A complete interview schedule will be published in advance of the interviews. A remote appearance option also will be made available for the public to attend the interviews.

All proceedings of the Commission are open to the public except for deliberations. Questions about the application or interview process should be directed to the Chair, Christine Derr or Vice Chair, Ryan Sainz.

The members of the Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission are:

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