

**TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION**

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor of Florida  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001  
Attention: Meredith Pardo, Assistant General Counsel

*Via e-mail transmission*

**IN RE: CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES TO FILL JUDICIAL VACANCIES – 20<sup>th</sup>  
CIRCUIT**

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On January 12, 2023, you requested that I convene the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission for the purpose of selecting and submitting to you the names of highly qualified lawyers for appointment to the Twentieth Judicial Circuit following the retirement of Judge Hugh Hayes and the resignation of Judge Scott Cupp.

The Commission conducted interviews with 20 applicants on February 17. On behalf of my fellow Commissioners, I am pleased to forward the following names for your consideration and appointment to the bench (in alphabetical order):

Nominees for Judge Hayes' seat:

Kimberly Bocelli  
Deborah Cunningham  
Russell Kirshy  
Ryan Kuhl  
Honorable Erik Leontiev  
Geraldo Olivo

Nominees for Judge Cupp's seat:

Kimberly Bocelli  
Deborah Cunningham  
Russell Kirshy  
Ryan Kuhl  
Honorable Erik Leontiev  
Geraldo Olivo

Original, unredacted copies of the applications submitted by the certified nominees, as well as all investigative material, will be sent via separate e-mail. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Richard J. Montecalvo  
Richard J. Montecalvo  
Chair  
Twentieth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission

cc: The Honorable Michael T. McHugh, Chief Judge  
The Honorable Frank Porter, Chief Judge-Elect