



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
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March 22, 2023

Mr. Fred Karlinsky
Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission
401 East Las Olas Boulevard Suite 2000
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Mr. Karlinsky:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you convene the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission for the purpose of selecting and submitting to the Governor the names of highly qualified lawyers for appointment to the Supreme Court. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Ricky Polston, effective March 31, 2023.

Article V, section 3(a) of the Florida Constitution states: "The supreme court shall consist of seven justices. Of the seven justices, each appellate district shall have at least one justice elected or appointed from the district to the supreme court who is a resident of the district at the time of the original appointment or election." At the time of their original appointment, the current justices were residents of and appointed from the following districts:

- Justice Muñiz – First District Court of Appeal
- Justice Canady – Second District Court of Appeal
- Justice Couriel – Third District Court of Appeal
- Justice Labarga – Fourth District Court of Appeal
- Justice Francis – Fourth District Court of Appeal
- Justice Grosshans – Fifth District Court of Appeal

Since Justice Francis's appointment in August 2023, the Sixth District Court of Appeal was created. Therefore, to comply with the Constitution's requirements, the certified candidates must have an established residence in the sixth appellate district by the time of their appointment.

The Commission's deadline for completion of this undertaking is **Friday, April 21, 2023**. In cases where a discretionary extension of no more than thirty days is needed, as authorized by Article V, section 11(c) of the Florida Constitution, please contact me. The Governor strongly prefers submission of the maximum number of nominees (six) for the vacancy.

Administrative support for the Commission will be provided by the Governor's Office, pursuant to section 43.291(7), Florida Statutes. This includes all essential administrative needs such as document distribution, public announcements, and the like. Our Director of Judicial

Appointments/Assistant General Counsel, Meredith Pardo (850-717-9448; Meredith.Pardo@eog.myflorida.com) will contact you to these ends.

The Commission's handling of this matter is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "N".

Ryan Newman
General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Carlos Muñiz
Chief Justice