



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com
850-717-9418

January 16, 2023

Mr. Patrick Joyce
Milam Howard Nicandri & Gillam
14 E Bay St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mr. Joyce:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you convene the Fourth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission for the purpose of selecting and submitting to the Governor the names of highly qualified lawyers for appointment to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court and Duval County Court. These appointments are to fill the vacancies created by the elevation of Judge Adrian Soud, effective January 1, 2023, and the retirement of Judge Roberto Arias, effective February 28, 2023. The Governor strongly prefers submission of the maximum number of nominees (six) for each vacancy.

The Commission's deadline for completion of this undertaking is **Saturday, February 25, 2023**. In cases where a discretionary extension of no more than twenty days is needed, as authorized by Article V, Section 11(c) of the Florida Constitution, please contact me.

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, 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".

Ryan Newman
General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Mark H. Mahon
Chief Judge