



RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

# Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com  
850-717-9418

March 17, 2023

Ms. Krista Mahalak  
Peterson & Myers, P.A.  
P.O. Box 7608  
Winter Haven, FL 33883

Dear Ms. Mahalak:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you convene the Tenth 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 Tenth Judicial Circuit. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Larry Helms, effective March 31, 2023. The Governor strongly prefers submission of the maximum number of nominees (six) for the vacancy.

The Commission's deadline for completion of this undertaking is **Sunday, April 16, 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.

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 Ellen Masters  
Chief Judge