

THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION ANNOUNCES COUNTY COURT AND CIRCUIT COURT JUDICIAL VACANCIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2023

Maximillian Amster, Chair, max@veridismgmt.com

Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission

TELEPHONE: (813) 575-2266

Governor Ron DeSantis has convened the Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission to select and submit the names of highly qualified candidates to fill the two County Court vacancies created by the appointments of Judge Hooi and Judge Tompkins to the Circuit Court bench and the one Circuit Court vacancy created by the resignation of Chief Judge Ficarrota.

Judicial applications for these vacancies must be received **before 5 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2024**. Please indicate in the subject line of your application email which seat you are applying for: County, Circuit, or Both.

c/o Max Amster, Chair
Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission
Veridis Management LLC
max@veridismgmt.com

Applicants must have been a member of the Florida Bar for the preceding five years and must be a registered voter. The individual appointed must reside in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit at the time that he or she is appointed.

The "Judicial Appointment Application 2022" may be downloaded from the Office of the Governor (<https://www.flgov.com/judicial-and-judicial-nominating-commission-information/>). PLEASE NOTE: Effective July 1, 2020, the application has been substantially revised. Please be sure to download and use the current application. Applicants must submit:

- One digital (electronic) signed copy of the application (as a .PDF).
- One digital (electronic) signed copy of the application (as a .PDF) with personal information not subject to public disclosure redacted as permitted by Section 119.071, Florida Statutes, and suitable for production in response to public records requests.

NOTE TO APPLICANTS: All questions in the application must be fully and completely answered. The submitted application must include the required financial disclosures, a writing sample, and a recent photograph. Applications must also include current contact information, including e-mail addresses, for all judges, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and references to facilitate the background investigation that members of the Commission will

conduct. Applications and redacted applications must be in .PDF form. The two .PDF files should be named in a "last name.first name" format. For example: Bob Smith should submit two file names: (1) Smith.Bob.pdf and (2) Smith.Bob-REDACTED.pdf. No paper applications will be accepted.

Interviews are anticipated to take place the week of January 22, 2024 - at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, Bank of America Plaza, 101 E. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, FL 33602. Applicants selected to be interviewed will be contacted to confirm the time of the interviews. A complete interview schedule will be published in advance of the interviews. The public may attend the interviews and a remote appearance option will be made available for the public to attend the interviews.

All proceedings of the Commission are open to the public except for deliberations. Accordingly, applicants should not expect their applications to be kept confidential. If an applicant is nominated, all materials attached to the original application will be submitted to the Governor.

Questions about the application or interview process should be directed to the Chair, Maximillian Amster, or Vice Chair, Pedro Bajo.

The members of the Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission are:

Maximillian Amster, Chair, max@veridismgmt.com, 813-575-2266

Pedro Bajo, Vice Chair, pbajo@bcalaw.com, 813-223-3130

Michael Beltran, Mike.Beltran@myfloridahouse.gov, 813-653-7097

Candace Rich, Candace.A.Garcia@gmail.com, 813-274-6000

Andrew J. Mayts, Jr., amayts@shumaker.com, 813-227-2248

Chad Mizelle, chadmizelle87@gmail.com, 863-712-1833

Diego Pestana, dpestanda@suarezlawfirm.com, 352-346-1220

Matthew Hall, Matthew.Hall@hwlaw.com, 813-227-8479

Charles Reynolds, creynolds@tysonmendes.com, 954-361-6984

Members of the bench, the Bar, and the public are urged to contact the members of the Commission concerning applicants for judicial positions.