



RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

# Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com  
850-717-9418

December 13, 2023

Mr. Richard Montecalvo  
Office of the State Attorney  
20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
P.O. Box 399  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902

Dear Mr. Montecalvo:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you convene the Twentieth 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 Twentieth Judicial Circuit. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Leigh Hayes. 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 **Saturday, January 27, 2024**. In cases where a discretionary extension of no more than fifteen 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 J. Frank Porter  
Chief Judge