

For Immediate Release

April 8, 2021

Contact: Courtney Grimm, Chairman

Telephone: (904) 955-8872

**FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
ANNOUNCES DUVAL COUNTY COURT VACANCY AND INTERVIEW DATE**

As a result of the retirement of The Honorable Ronald Higbee, there is a vacancy on the Duval County Court Bench. Governor Ron DeSantis has asked the Fourth Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission to convene and provide him with highly qualified nominees for this vacancy.

Complete unredacted and redacted applications (see below for more information) for this vacancy must be received **before** 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, April 23, 2021** in PDF form, including a digital photograph, via e-mail to: Courtney.grimm@claycountygov.com. Additionally, a copy of both the unredacted and redacted applications should be forwarded to the following address: Courtney Grimm, County Attorney, P.O. Box 1366, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

The application form may be downloaded from the Florida Bar's website at www.floridabar.org or the Office of the Governor at www.flgov.com. **Note that effective July 1, 2020, there is a NEW Judicial Appointment Application Form that must be submitted.** Previous application forms will **not** be accepted.

Interviews will be held on **Friday, May 7, 2021** in Chief Judge Mark Mahon's Chambers on the 7th floor of the Duval County Courthouse. A subsequent press release will be issued after the application deadline with the interview schedule and details.

Use of the previous application form, incomplete applications, or applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Further, all applicants must meet the qualifications for Judges outlined in Article V, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution.

Personal information not subject to public disclosure should be redacted on a separate copy of the application as permitted by Section 119.071 of the Florida Statutes. To assist the Commission, all questions on the application must be fully and completely answered. Applications must include current contact information (especially direct phone numbers), including e-mail addresses for judges, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and references to facilitate the background investigation that will be conducted by the members of the Commission.

All proceedings of this Judicial Nominating Commission are open to the public except for deliberations. Accordingly, applicants should not expect their application be kept confidential.

If an applicant is nominated, all materials attached to the original application will be submitted to Governor DeSantis's Office.

If there are any questions about the application process, please contact Courtney Grimm at 904-955-8872. *Applicants shall not initiate contact with the Commissioners until the nominees are submitted to Governor DeSantis unless questions pertain to the application process only.*