

*For Immediate Release*

April 30, 2020

Contact: Jacob A. Brown, Chairman

Telephone: (904) 598-8630

**FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION  
ANNOUNCES INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR DUVAL COUNTY COURT VACANCY**

As a result of the appointment of The Honorable Anthony Salem to the Fourth Judicial Circuit, there is a vacancy on the Duval County Court Bench. Governor Ron DeSantis has asked the Fourth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission to provide him with nominees for this vacancy. With the unfortunate outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), corresponding restrictions imposed by governmental entities, and applicable legal authority, along with consideration of the best interest of the public, the applicants, and the commissioners, the procedures outlined below will apply.

The Commission received sixteen (16) applications and will interview the following applicants whom the Commission has not interviewed for the past three vacancies on **Friday, May 15, 2020** in accordance with the following schedule:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Applicant</b>
9:30 a.m.	Margaret Gibbs Gulliford
9:45 a.m.	Yekaterina Mesic
10:00 a.m.	Adina Lea Pollan
10:15 a.m.	Theresa Carli Pontieri
10:30 a.m.	Susan Faris Zerbe

There will be no in-person interviews. Out of continued concern for the public, the applicants, and the commissioners, the above applicants will be required to interview remotely using Zoom at the link provided below.

The following prior applicants not being interviewed on May 15<sup>th</sup> may submit a written statement updating the Commission on anything the applicant wishes to share about themselves and their work experience since their last interview:

- Janet L. Abel
- Jeb T. Branham
- Melina Buncome
- Corrine A. Bylund
- Jeffrey Davenport
- Matthew Lufrano
- London M. Kite
- Stacey Myers
- W. Joel Powell
- Theresa E. Simak

- Julie K. Taylor

Such statements are limited to one thousand (1,000) words and must be received at [jacob.brown@akerman.com](mailto:jacob.brown@akerman.com) by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Monday, May 11, 2020 to be considered.

**Despite the changes in procedure noted above, the Commission will not eliminate any applicant from consideration by virtue of their not being interviewed for this vacancy.**

All applicants and members of the press and public who wish to participate in these interviews will be allowed to participate via Zoom using the following options:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/519192770>

Meeting ID: 519 192 770

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,519192770# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,519192770# US (New York)

Attending representatives of the press and public's connections will be muted and not visual to Commissioners and Applicants.

If there are disruptive background noises, lines may be disconnected.

Members of the Bench, the Bar, and the public are encouraged to contact the Commissioners with relevant information about these applicants **on or before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2020.**

All proceedings of this Judicial Nominating Commission are open to the public (with the limitations noted above for the purposes of the May 15, 2020 interviews) except for deliberations. Accordingly, applicants should not expect their application be kept confidential. If an applicant is nominated by this Commission, all materials attached to the original application along with any supplemental materials will be submitted to Governor DeSantis's Office.

**Please review the above information carefully. The Commission appreciates your consideration of these measures as we do our best to balance all interests at this time. The Commission also appreciates the continued help and support from Chief Judge Mark H. Mahon, Fourth Judicial Circuit Chief Technology Officer Mike Smith and their gracious and courteous staff.**

If there are any questions, please contact Jacob A. Brown at (904) 598-8630 or by electronic mail at [jacob.brown@akerman.com](mailto:jacob.brown@akerman.com). Thank you.