



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
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850-717-9418

November 23, 2021

Ms. Shanta Matthews
Chair – Fifth Judicial Circuit
Judicial Nominating Commission
108 N Magnolia Ave. Suite 600
Ocala, FL 34475

Dear Ms. Matthews:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you reconvene the Fifth 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 Fifth Judicial Circuit Court. The list of names previously certified to the Governor's Office for the two vacancies created by the retirement of Judge S. Sue Robbins, effective October 31, 2021, and the retirement of Judge William H. Hallman III, effective December 31, 2021, contained less than the required minimum number of nominees (three) per vacancy. The previous list will be considered for the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge S. Sue Robbins. When reconvening, 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 **Monday, December 13, 2021**. However, I encourage you to submit the additional list as soon as possible given the delay.

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 JNC Coordinator Annie Ortega (850-717-9448; Annie.Ortega@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 Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.
Chief Judge