

**TENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
COUNTY COURT JUDGE VACANCY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2020

CONTACT: **Lydia S. Zbrzezni, Chair**
Tenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission
(863) 656-6672

BARTOW – The Tenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission has been asked to provide Governor Ron DeSantis with nominees for the vacancy in the Polk County Court created by the retirement of **Judge John Kirkland**.

The Commission requests that interested candidates submit an application for consideration. Applicants must meet the qualifications for county court judges described in Article V, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution.

Applicants must submit three copies (3) of their application by **5:00 pm on Friday March 6, 2020**, as follows:

(1): The original unredacted paper application shall be delivered to:

Lydia S. Zbrzezni
Southern Atlantic Law Group, PLLC
99 Sixth Street SW
Winter Haven, Florida 33880

(2): The **original unredacted** application shall be emailed in .pdf format to: lydia@southernatlanticlaw.com.

(3): A redacted .pdf of the application shall be emailed to lydia@southernatlanticlaw.com. Personal information not subject to public disclosure—such as the social security number—shall be redacted as permitted by Section 119.071 of the Florida Statutes.

Untimely applications will not be considered. The filename for .pdf applications should be as follows “20.03.06 FIRSTNAME LASTNAME County Application (redacted /unredacted).”

Applications may be downloaded from the Florida Bar’s website at www.flabar.org and the Office of the Governor at www.flgov.com.

NOTE TO APPLICANTS: To assist the Judicial Nominating Commission in its review of applications, all questions must be fully and completely answered. Applications must include current contact information, 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.

TENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION MEMBERS

<p>Lydia S. Zbrzezny (<i>Chair</i>) Southern Atlantic Law Group, PLLC 99 Sixth Street SW Winter Haven, FL 33880 Tel.: 863-656-6672 lydia@southernatlanticlaw.com</p>	<p>Krista Mahalak (<i>Vice-Chair</i>) Peterson & Myers, P.A. 242 West Central Avenue Winter Haven, FL 33880 Tel.: 863-294-3360 kmahalak@petersonmyers.com</p>
<p>Patrice F. Behnstedt Office of the Public Defender Polk County Courthouse 3rd Floor P.O. Box 9000 Bartow, FL 33831-9000 Tel.: 863-534-4200 pbehnstedt@pd10.org</p>	<p>Benjamin W. Hardin, Jr. Hardin & Ball, P.A. P.O. Box 3604 Lakeland, FL 33802-3604 Tel.: 863-688-5200 bwhardin@hardinpalaw.com</p>
<p>Frederick Murphy Boswell & Dunlap, LLP 245 S. Central Avenue Bartow, FL 33830 Tel.: 863-533-7117 fjm@bosdun.com</p>	<p>Edward Blake Paul Peterson & Myers, P.A. P.O. Box 24628 Lakeland, FL 33802-4628 Tel.: 863-683-6511 bpaul@petersonmyers.com</p>
<p>Robert S. Swaine Swaine & Harris, P.A. 425 S. Commerce Avenue Sebring, FL 33870 Tel.: 8863-385-1549 bob@heartlandlaw.com</p>	<p>Richard E. Straughn Straughn & Turner, P.A. 255 Magnolia Avenue SW Winter Haven, FL 33880 Tel: 863-293-1184 Rstraughn@straughnturner.com</p>