



STATE OF FLORIDA  
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
Putnam County Courthouse  
Suite 303  
410 St. Johns Avenue  
Palatka, Florida 32177

**Patti A. Christensen**  
Circuit Court Judge

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October 1, 2020

Honorable Governor Ron DeSantis  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee FL 32399

Re: Retirement of Circuit Judge Patti A. Christensen

Dear Governor DeSantis:

I have decided to retire and resign my post as Circuit Judge, effective at the end of this year.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the people of the Seventh Circuit, which comprises St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, and Volusia counties. I began my service in 2000 as a County Judge in St Johns County and then as a Circuit Judge in Putnam County beginning in 2010. I have Governors Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist to thank for appointing me to these positions, and the voters of the circuit for re-electing me through three different election cycles.

I was greatly influenced by St. Johns County's first female County Judge, the Honorable Peggy Ready (Ret. Col, US Army). Following in her pioneering footsteps I became the first female Circuit Judge in Putnam County. I have had the pleasure of working with two excellent Clerks of Court, Cheryl Strickland and Tim Smith, who facilitated cordial and working relationships with the judiciary. I was mentored by the Honorable Robert Mathis who is not only smart, but practical as well. I am proud to say that I have been a part of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, comprised of competent men and women jurists who do their utmost to deliver true and fair justice.

In selecting my replacement, I hope you will give due consideration to someone from Putnam County. I am sure it will be tempting to tap into the reputable qualified pool of attorneys from the Ponte Vedra area where many of our local judges reside. But Putnam County has plenty of talented attorneys who would make excellent candidates for Circuit Judge. Unlike St. Johns, Flagler and Volusia, Putnam does not have beaches or the interstate. It does not rely on tourism. It is inland, with agriculture and industry providing its jobs. Someone from here will understand the mindset and uniqueness of Putnam County. Putnam County deserves to have a local circuit judge.

They say hindsight is 20/20 and so with this in mind I am putting 2020 in the rearview mirror. At the close of business on December 31, I will be wishing everyone a Happy New Year, and thanking them all for their wonderful support.

Sincerely,

Patti A. Christensen  
Circuit Judge