



RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

# Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

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850-717-9418

September 28, 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 convene 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. These appointments are to fill the new 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. The Governor strongly prefers submission of the maximum number of nominees (six) for each vacancy.

The Commission's deadline for completion of this undertaking is **Thursday, October 28, 2021**. In cases where a discretionary extension of no more than thirty days is needed, as authorized by Article V, Section 11(c) of the Florida Constitution, please contact me.

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 "James Uthmeier".

James Uthmeier  
General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.  
Chief Judge