

# THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION ANNOUNCES APPLICANTS FOR COUNTY COURT JUDICIAL VACANCY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2021

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Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission  
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As a result of the upcoming retirement of the Honorable Joelle Ann Ober, there will be a vacancy on the County Court in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, and Governor Ron DeSantis convened the Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission to select and submit the names of highly qualified candidates to fill the vacancy. The following individuals have applied for the vacancy:

Adam Leo Bantner, II  
Amber Boles  
Starr Linette Brookins  
Cory Lee Chandler  
Travis Jarod Coy  
Paul Martin Dontenville Jr.  
Matthew Lee Felix  
James Giardina  
Michael J. Hooi  
Eilam Michael Isaak  
Melissa Isabel  
Dionne Michelle Jones  
Joseph Kudia  
Susan Shorter Lopez  
Marc S. Makholm

Elba Caridad Martin  
Victoria McNeal  
Brigid Anne Merenda  
Donald Allen Mihokovich  
Bennett Matthew Miller  
Antina Levette Mobley  
Dawn Myers  
Diego F. Novaes  
Loretta Comiskey O'Keeffe  
Sara Kathleen Peacock  
Gregory D. Pizzo  
Jeffrey Michael Rich  
Leslie Schultz-Kin  
Matthew Alex Smith  
Alicia Raina Whiting-Bozich

The Commission encourages and seeks comments regarding the qualifications of these applicants from the public and from members of the Bench and Bar. Comments may be addressed to Christine Derr, Chair, Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, and emailed to [christine@harrishunt derr.com](mailto:christine@harrishunt derr.com), or mailed to Christine Derr, Wells Fargo Center, 100 South Ashley Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33602. Comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. (Noon)** on **August 2, 2021** to be considered by the Commission.

Interviews will be conducted on Monday, August 9, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Hillsborough County Bar Association, Chester H. Ferguson Law Center, 1610 North Tampa Street,

Tampa, Florida 33602. Applicants selected to be interviewed will be contacted to confirm the time of the interviews and will be permitted to appear in person or remotely (via Zoom). Proper social distancing and other Covid and safety protocols will be followed. A complete interview schedule will be published on or before August 3, 2021. A remote appearance option also will be made available for the public to attend the interviews.

All proceedings of the Commission are open to the public except for deliberations. Questions about the application or interview process should be directed to the Chair, Christine Derr or Vice Chair, Ryan Sainz.

The members of the Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission are:

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