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May 10, 2021

VIA EMAIL: james.uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com

James Uthmeier
General Counsel
Office of the Governor
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Reconvening for Judicial Vacancies and Certification of Nominees

Dear Mr. Uthmeier:

Upon receipt of your April 19, 2021 letter, the Judicial Nominating Commission for the First Judicial Circuit reconvened for further deliberations on the vacancies created by the resignation of Judge Jeff Burns and the retirement of Judge Ross Goodman. Having reviewed relevant case law, including *Pleus v. Crist*, 14 So. 3d 941, 945 (Fla. 2009), *In re Advisory Opinion to the Governor*, 551 So. 2d 1205, 1206 (Fla. 1989), and *In re Advisory Opinion to the Governor*, 276 So. 2d 25, 30 (Fla. 1973), as well as Ops. Att’y Gen. Fla. 96-04 (1996) and 93-87 (1993), the Commission has concluded the list of names previously certified to the Governor’s Office did not include the constitutionally-mandated minimum number of applicants for two vacancies. In accordance with the requirements of Article V, § 11(b), Florida Constitution, the Commission has supplemented the previously submitted list of qualified applicants to include not fewer than three names for each vacancy.

Accordingly, having conducted interviews of the applicants on March 23, 2021 and having deliberated on both March 23, 2021 and May 4, 2021, the Commission is pleased to submit to the Governor, in alphabetical order, the following list of seven qualified applicants for the two vacancies created by the resignation of Judge Jeff Burns and the retirement of Judge Ross Goodman:

1. Clifton Drake
2. Frederick Longmire
3. Amy McBride
4. Keith A. McIver
5. Wanda Morgan
6. David Oberliesen
7. Kerra Smith

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Thank you for the privilege to serve the State of Florida and the First Judicial Circuit. Please advise if you have any questions or need any additional information at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel E. Harrell
Chair, Judicial Nominating Commission
First Judicial Circuit

cc: The Honorable John Miller, Chief Judge, via email at judge.miller@flcourts1.gov
Emily Dunson (emily.dunson@eog.myflorida.com)
Members of the Judicial Nominating Commission of the First Judicial Circuit