



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA
Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

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850-717-9418

December 5, 2016

Mr. Patrick K. Neal
Chair-Twelfth Circuit
Judicial Nominating Commission
5800 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.
Sarasota, Florida 34240

Dear Mr. Neal:

Governor Scott has directed me to request that you convene the Twelfth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission for the purpose of selecting and submitting to the Governor the names of highly qualified lawyers for appointment to the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Andrew D. Owens, Jr. The Governor strongly prefers submission of the maximum number of nominees (six) for the vacancy.

The Commission's deadline for completion of this undertaking is **Friday, February 3, 2017**. The deadline is final as it includes the discretionary 30-day extension authorized by Article V, Section 11(c) of the Florida Constitution.

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. JNC Coordinator Stephanie Nieset (850-717-9310; Stephanie.Nieset@eog.myflorida.com) will contact you to these ends.

The Commission's expeditious handling of this matter is most appreciated. If I may be of assistance to you or the members of the Commission, please call me at (850) 717-9310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Benjamin Gibson".

Benjamin Gibson
Deputy General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Williams
Chief Judge