



**LEE E. HAWORTH**  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

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TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
2002 RINGLING BLVD.  
SARASOTA, FL 34237

JANICE HOUNCHELL  
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March 31, 2015

The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

APR 03 2015

RE: Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Group 13, Circuit Judge Vacancy

Dear Governor Scott:

Article V of the Florida Constitution requires me to vacate my office as circuit judge at the end of August, 2015. My last day as an active member of the judiciary will be August 31, 2015. This will complete 26 years of judicial service. My seat, Group 13, will be vacant thereafter.

I depart reluctantly, as I would willingly continue to serve many more years. I am hopeful the constitution will be amended in future years to allow for the extended service of seasoned judges.

It has been an honor to serve the citizens of Sarasota, Manatee, and Desoto counties for over two and a half decades. I leave with high regard for my colleagues on the bench and secure in the knowledge that this vibrant but small third branch of government remains steadfastly independent and devoutly respectful of the rule of law.

I am notifying the Chair of the Twelfth Circuit Judicial Nominating Committee of the vacancy so it may initiate the process of recommending a successor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee E. Haworth".

Lee E. Haworth

Hon. Andrew D. Owens, Chief Judge  
Ms. Bonnie Lee Polk, Chair, 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit JNC  
Walt Smith, Court Administrator  
Delcynth Schloss, Supreme Court  
Retirement Human Resources Manager