

# THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION ANNOUNCES COUNTY COURT AND CIRCUIT COURT JUDICIAL VACANCIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2022

Christine Derr, Chair, [christine@harrishunt derr.com](mailto:christine@harrishunt derr.com)  
Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission  
TELEPHONE: (813) 223-5421

Governor Ron DeSantis has convened the Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission to select and submit the names of highly qualified candidates to fill the county court vacancy created by the elevation of Judge James Moody, III to the circuit court bench, and a circuit court vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Lamar Battles.

Judicial applications for these vacancies must be received **before 5 p.m. on Friday, May 13, 2022**. Applicants for the February 2022 process to fill the circuit court vacancy created by the passing of Judge Hinson are not required to resubmit their applications. If you applied for the February 2022 process and would like your application to be considered for either the county or circuit vacancy, please email the Chair. For applicants who did not apply for the February 2022 process, please submit your application to the following location and indicate whether you would like to be considered for the county, circuit, or both vacancies:

c/o Christine Derr, Chair  
Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission  
Harris, Hunt & Derr, P.A.  
[christine@harrishunt derr.com](mailto:christine@harrishunt derr.com)

Applicants must have been a member of the Florida Bar for the preceding five years and must be a registered voter. The individual appointed must reside in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit at the time that he or she is appointed.

The "Judicial Appointment Application 2021" may be downloaded from the Office of the Governor (<https://www.flgov.com/judicial-and-judicial-nominating-commission-information/>). PLEASE NOTE: Effective July 1, 2020, the application has been substantially revised. Please be sure to download and use the current application. Applicants must submit:

- One digital (electronic) signed copy of the application (as a .PDF).
- One digital (electronic) signed copy of the application (as a .PDF) with personal information not subject to public disclosure redacted as permitted by Section 119.071, Florida Statutes, and suitable for production in response to public records requests.

NOTE TO APPLICANTS: All questions in the application must be fully and completely answered. The submitted application must include the required financial disclosures, a

writing sample, and a recent photograph. Applications must also include current contact information, including e-mail addresses, for all judges, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and references to facilitate the background investigation that members of the Commission will conduct. Applications and redacted applications must be in .PDF form. The two .PDF files should be named in a "last name.first name" format. For example: Bob Smith should submit two files names: (1) Smith.Bob.pdf and (2) Smith.Bob-REDACTED.pdf. No paper applications will be accepted.

Interviews are anticipated to take place in late May 2022 at the Hillsborough County Bar Association, Chester H. Ferguson Law Center, 1610 North Tampa Street, Tampa, FL 33602. Applicants selected to be interviewed will be contacted to confirm the time of the interviews. A complete interview schedule will be published in advance of the interviews. The public may attend the interviews and a remote appearance option will be made available for the public to attend the interviews.

All proceedings of the Commission are open to the public except for deliberations. Accordingly, applicants should not expect their applications to be kept confidential. If an applicant is nominated, all materials attached to the original application will be submitted to the Governor.

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:

Christine L. Derr, Chair, [christine@harrishunt derr.com](mailto:christine@harrishunt derr.com), 813-223-5421

Ryan Sainz, Vice Chair, [rsainz@forthepeople.com](mailto:rsainz@forthepeople.com), 813-476-1490

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Chad Mizelle, [chadmizelle87@gmail.com](mailto:chadmizelle87@gmail.com)

Members of the bench, the Bar and the public are urged to contact the members of the Commission concerning applicants for judicial positions.