

**JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION, FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
NOTICE OF CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURT VACANCY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 12, 2024

CONTACT: Robert L. Jones, III, Chair
Judicial Nominating Commission, First Judicial Circuit
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Governor DeSantis has announced vacancies on the First Judicial Circuit Court (two vacancies) and the Santa Rosa County Court (one vacancy). These appointments are to fill the vacancies created by the resignation of Judge Wells and the enactment of HB 5401. Accordingly, the Judicial Nominating Commission of the First Judicial Circuit is now accepting applications for these vacancies.

Applicants must fulfill the Constitutional qualifications before assuming the office of County Court Judge, which specify that: a) no person shall be eligible for the office of judge of any court unless the person is an elector of the state and resides in the territorial jurisdiction of the court; and b) no person is eligible for the office of county court judge unless the person is, and has been for the preceding five years, a member of the bar of Florida.

Applicants must fulfill the Constitutional qualifications before assuming the office of Circuit Court Judge, which specify that: a) no person shall be eligible for the office of judge of any court unless the person is an elector of the state and resides in the territorial jurisdiction of the court; and b) no person is eligible for the office of circuit judge unless the person is, and has been for the preceding five years, a member of the bar of Florida.

Applications may be downloaded from the Office of the Governor's website at www.flgov.com or the Florida Bar's website at www.floridabar.org. Effective July 1, 2020, the application has been substantially revised, and only the current version will be accepted.

All applicants must submit the following: a .pdf version of the complete unredacted application with attachments, including the executed FDLE form, and a color photograph in .jpg or .gif format; and a .pdf version of a redacted copy of the application excluding all exempt information pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. The .pdf files should be titled in the name of the applicant (Doe.John.pdf) and labeled "Redacted" or "Original" as applicable.

Applications must be delivered by email to Robert L. Jones, III, Chair, at rlj@beggslane.com no later than **3:00 p.m. (CDT) on Monday, August 19th, 2024**. **Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.**

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.

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

Members of the bench, Bar, and the public are encouraged to contact the members of the Commission concerning applicants for judicial positions. Letters of recommendation should be emailed or mailed to all commissioners.

The members of the First Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission are listed below.

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