

**TENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION POLK COUNTY,
CIRCUIT COURT VACANCY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2024

CONTACT: **Nicholas T. Zbrzezny, Chair**
Tenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission
(863) 656-6672

BARTOW – The Tenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission has been asked to provide Governor Ron DeSantis with nominees for a Polk County, Circuit Court vacancy, created by the retirement of **Judge Wayne M. Durden**.

The Commission requests that interested candidates submit an application for consideration. Applicants must meet the qualifications for circuit court judges described in Article V, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution.

Applicants must submit two (2) copies of their application by **5:00 pm on Friday, November 22, 2024**, as follows:

(1): The original unredacted application shall be emailed in .pdf format to: nick@southernatlanticlaw.com.

(2): A redacted .pdf of the application shall be emailed to nick@southernatlanticlaw.com. Personal information not subject to public disclosure—such as the social security number—shall be redacted as permitted by Section 119.071 of the Florida Statutes.

Untimely applications will not be considered. The filename for .pdf applications should be as follows “2024.11.22 FIRSTNAME LASTNAME Circuit Application (redacted /unredacted).”

Applications may be downloaded from The Florida Governor’s JNC Information webpage:
<https://www.flgov.com/judicial-and-judicial-nominating-commission-information/>

NOTE TO APPLICANTS: To assist the Judicial Nominating Commission in its review of applications, all questions must be fully and completely answered. Applications must include current contact information, including e-mail addresses, for judges, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and references to facilitate the background investigation that will be conducted by the members of the Commission.

TENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Nicholas T. Zbrzezny (*Chair*)
Southern Atlantic Law Group, PLLC
290 1st Street S
Winter Haven, FL 33881-4009
Tel.: 863-656-6672
nick@southernatlanticlaw.com

Walter E. Engle, III
Publix Super Markets, Inc.
PO Box 407
Lakeland, FL 33802-0407
Tel.: 863-413-8107
walt.engle@publix.com

Krista Mahalak
Peterson & Myers, P.A.
242 West Central Avenue
Winter Haven, FL 33880
Tel.: 863-294-3360
kmahalak@petersonmyers.com

Frederick J. Murphy, Jr.
Boswell & Dunlap, LLP
245 S. Central Avenue
Bartow, FL 33830
Tel.: 863-533-7117
fjm@bosdun.com

Julie Landrigan Ball (*Vice-Chair*)
Hardin & Ball, P.A.
PO Box 3604
Lakeland, FL 33802-3604
Tel.: 863-534-4200
jball@hardinpalaw.com

Benjamin W. Hardin, Jr.
Hardin & Ball, P.A.
P.O. Box 3604
Lakeland, FL 33802-3604
Tel.: 863-688-5200
bwhardin@hardinpalaw.com

Robert S. Swaine
Swaine & Harris, P.A.
425 S. Commerce Avenue
Sebring, FL 33870
Tel.: 863-385-1549
bob@heartlandlaw.com

Lydia S. Zbrzezny
Southern Atlantic Law Group, PLLC
290 1st Street S
Winter Haven, FL 33881-4009
Tel.: 863-656-6672
lydia@southernatlanticlaw.com