



RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

# Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

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850-717-9418

January 25, 2021

Mr. Daniel Harrell  
Chair – First Circuit  
Judicial Nominating Commission  
125 West Romana Street, Suite 800  
Pensacola, Florida 32502

Dear Mr. Harrell:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you convene the First Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission for the purpose of selecting and submitting to the Governor the names of highly qualified lawyers for appointments to the First Circuit Court. These appointments are to fill the vacancies created by the resignation of Judge Jeff Burns and retirement of Judge Ross Goodman. The Governor strongly prefers submission of the maximum number of nominees (twelve) for the vacancies.

The Commission's deadline for completion of this undertaking is **Friday, March 26, 2021**. This includes a discretionary extension as 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. Our JNC Coordinator Erin Kraeft (850-717-9310; Erin.Kraeft@eog.myflorida.com) will contact you to these ends.

The Commission's handling of this matter is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of James Uthmeier, consisting of a stylized, flowing script.

James Uthmeier  
Acting General Counsel

cc: The Honorable John Miller  
Chief Judge