



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

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February 22, 2021

Mr. Robert William Batsel
Chair – Fifth Circuit
Gilligan, Gooding, Batsel & Anderson, PA
1531 SE 36th Ave
Ocala, FL 34471-4936

Dear Mr. Batsel:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you convene the Fifth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission for the purpose of selecting and submitting to the Governor the names of highly qualified lawyers for appointment to the Marion County Court. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Sarah Ritterhoff Williams. The Governor strongly prefers submission of the maximum number of nominees (six) for the vacancy.

The Commission's deadline for completion of this undertaking is **Monday, March 23, 2021**. In cases where a discretionary extension of no more than thirty days is needed, as authorized by Article V, Section 11(c) of the Florida Constitution, please contact me.

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 Emily Dunson (850-717-9310; Emily.Dunson@eog.myflorida.com) will contact you to these ends.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Uthmeier".

James Uthmeier
Acting General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.
Chief Judge