



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

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850-717-9418

November 30, 2023

Mr. Thomas Oates




Dear Mr. Oates:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you convene the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission for the purpose of selecting and submitting to the Governor the names of highly qualified lawyers for appointment to the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Mariya Weekes. 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 **Friday, January 19, 2024**. In cases where a discretionary extension of no more than ten 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 Director of Judicial Appointments, Meredith Pardo (850-717-9448; Meredith.Pardo@eog.myflorida.com) will contact you to these ends.

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

Sincerely,

Ryan Newman
General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Jack Tuter
Chief Judge