

**NINTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDICIAL VACANCIES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 18, 2023

Matthew A. Klein, Chair  
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ORLANDO – Governor Ron DeSantis has requested the Ninth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission provide him with names of highly qualified nominees for three (3) circuit court vacancies and one (1) Orange County court vacancy. The vacancies were created by the elevations of Judges Paetra Brownlee and Elizabeth Gibson and the resignations of Judges Alice Blackwell and Tarlika Nunez-Navarro.

The Commission requires interested candidates to submit a completed application for consideration to the Vice Chair, **Eric Jontz** at [EJontz@Fishbacklaw.com](mailto:EJontz@Fishbacklaw.com) **on or before Monday, August 7, 2023 at noon (12:00 p.m.)**. Incomplete applications and untimely submissions will not be considered by the Commission. Applicants in need of guidance should direct inquiries to the Vice Chair. Applicants must qualify to hold office for Circuit Court or County Court under Article V, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution. Those qualifications include having been a member of the Florida Bar for the preceding five years, being a registered voter in the State of Florida, and for circuit court, residing in Orange County or Osceola County at the time of appointment, and for the Orange County Court seat, the applicant must reside in Orange County at the time of appointment.

Applications may be downloaded from the Office of the Governor at [www.flgov.com](http://www.flgov.com), and must include a recent photograph, preferably as a cover page. Applicants must also include current contact information, including e-mail addresses, for themselves, as well as for all co-counsel, opposing counsel, and references to facilitate the requisite background investigation.

All applications must be submitted in one file in .pdf format. A second .pdf version of the application must also be provided with redactions to protect personal information not subject to public disclosure as permitted by Section 119.071 of the Florida Statutes. The two .pdf files should be named in a “last name.first name” format. For example, James Madison should submit two files named: (1) Madison.James.pdf and (2) Madison.James-REDACTED.pdf. Applications not submitted in the correct format may be rejected and paper applications will not be accepted. All complete and properly submitted applications will be considered for all four vacancies unless the applicant informs the JNC otherwise in the email submitting the application. The same application may be used for all openings but should indicate on the top of the first page that it is for a circuit and county seat, if desired.

Members of the bench, the Bar, and the public are encouraged to contact the members of the Commission concerning applicants for judicial positions. Letters of recommendation should be e-mailed or mailed to all Commissioners at any time before the interviews begin. The contact information for the commissioners is:

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Interviews will be held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023. Applicants will be notified by e-mail of their interview time and the location once the schedule is finalized after the application deadline. A complete interview schedule will be available on Governor Ron DeSantis's website.