

**NINTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
COUNTY AND CIRCUIT JUDGE VACANCIES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2, 2021

Michael A. Sasso, Chair
Ninth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission
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WINTER PARK – Governor Ron DeSantis has requested the Ninth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission to provide him with names of highly qualified nominees for the Circuit Court vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Julie H. O’Kane, effective Friday, October 1, 2021. This request is in addition to the pending request for nominations to the two (2) newly created Circuit Court seats and one (1) new Orange County Court seat.

The Commission requires interested candidates to submit a complete application for consideration. Applicants must have been a member of The Florida Bar for the preceding five years and must be a registered voter. Individuals appointed to the Circuit Court must reside in Orange or Osceola County at the time of appointment. Similarly, an individual appointed to the County Court must reside in Orange County upon appointment.

Applications may be downloaded from the Office of the Governor at www.flgov.com. Applicants must include a recent photograph, preferably as a cover page.

Applicants must submit a complete application to **Michael A. Sasso** at masasso@sasso-law.com by **August 13, 2021 at noon (12:00 p.m.)**. **The deadline to apply for the other pending Circuit Court openings and County Court opening is also extended to this new deadline.** Applications already received will automatically be considered for all open seats. Any eligible applicant who does not desire to be considered for all open seats should advise the Chair upon submission of the application. Untimely applications will not be considered.

Applications must be in .pdf form with a second .pdf version redacted 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. No paper applications will be accepted.

To assist the Commission in its vetting process, all questions on the application must be fully and completely answered. The submitted application must include the financial disclosures, a writing sample, and a recent photograph. Applicants must also include current contact information, *including e-mail addresses*, for all judges, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and references to facilitate the requisite background investigation.

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.

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Interviews are tentatively scheduled for August 31, 2021, though this date is subject to change. Applicants will be notified by e-mail of their interview date and time and the address once the schedule is finalized after the application deadline. A complete interview schedule will be available on the Governor's website at a later time. If there are any questions about the application process, please contact the Chair of the JNC, Michael A. Sasso, at (407) 644-7161.