

# THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION ANNOUNCES COUNTY COURT JUDICIAL VACANCIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 16, 2021

Christine Derr, Chair, [christine@harrishunt derr.com](mailto:christine@harrishunt derr.com)

Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission

TELEPHONE: (813) 223-5421

(813) 223-5505

As a result of the six new Thirteenth Judicial Circuit County Court vacancies effective July 1, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis has convened the Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission to select and submit the names of highly qualified candidates to fill the remaining three of the six vacancies, and

Judicial applications for this vacancy must be received **before 5 p.m. on Friday, September 3, 2021**, at the following location:

c/o Christine Derr, Chair  
Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission  
Harris, Hunt & Derr, P.A.  
Wells Fargo Center  
100 South Ashley Drive, Suite 300  
Tampa, FL 33602  
[christine@harrishunt derr.com](mailto:christine@harrishunt derr.com)

Applicants must have been a member of the Florida Bar for the preceding five years and must be a registered voter. The individual appointed must reside in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit at the time that he or she is appointed.

The "Revised Judicial Application" may be downloaded from the Office of the Governor (<https://www.flgov.com/judicial-and-judicial-nominating-commission-information/>). PLEASE NOTE: Effective July 1, 2020, the application has been substantially revised. Please be sure to download and use the current application. Applicants must submit:

- One digital (electronic) signed copy of the application (as a .PDF).
- One digital (electronic) signed copy of the application (as a .PDF) with personal information not subject to public disclosure redacted as permitted by Section 119.071, Florida Statutes, and suitable for production in response to public records requests.

NOTE TO APPLICANTS: Applicants who have previously applied to the July 2021 process to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Joelle Ann Ober, or the August 2021 process to fill three of the six new county court seats do not need to reapply for this process. Your applications will be considered for this process. All questions in the

application must be fully and completely answered. The submitted application must include the required financial disclosures, a writing sample, and a recent photograph. Applications must also include current contact information, including e-mail addresses, for all judges, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and references to facilitate the background investigation that members of the Commission will conduct. Applications and redacted applications must be in .PDF form. The two .PDF files should be named in a “last name.first name” format. For example: Bob Smith should submit two files names: (1) Smith.Bob.pdf and (2) Smith.Bob-REDACTED.pdf. No paper applications will be accepted.

A complete interview schedule will be published in the coming weeks. Applicants selected to be interviewed will be contacted to confirm the time of the interviews. A remote appearance option also will be made available for the public to attend the interviews.

All proceedings of the Commission are open to the public except for deliberations. Accordingly, applicants should not expect their applications to be kept confidential. If an applicant is nominated, all materials attached to the original application will be submitted to the Governor.

Questions about the application or interview process should be directed to the Chair, Christine Derr.

The members of the Thirteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission are:

Christine L. Derr, Vice Chair, [christine@harrishunt derr.com](mailto:christine@harrishunt derr.com), 813-223-5421

Ryan Sainz, Vice Chair, [rsainz@forthepeople.com](mailto:rsainz@forthepeople.com), 813-223-5505

Maxmillian Amster, [max@veridismgmt.com](mailto:max@veridismgmt.com), 813-575-2266

J. Carter Andersen, Chair, [candersen@bushross.com](mailto:candersen@bushross.com), 813-204-6405

Pedro Bajo, [pbajo@bajocuva.com](mailto:pbajo@bajocuva.com), 813-443-2199

Michael Beltran [Mike.Beltran@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Mike.Beltran@myfloridahouse.gov) 813-870-3073

Teresa M. Gaffney, [terri@overstreetwealth.com](mailto:terri@overstreetwealth.com), 813-287-1159

Thomas Newcomb Hyde, [thomasnewcombhyde@gmail.com](mailto:thomasnewcombhyde@gmail.com), 813-855-2071

Andrew J. Mayts, Jr., [amayts@shumaker.com](mailto:amayts@shumaker.com), 813-227-2248

Members of the bench, the Bar and the public are urged to contact the members of the Commission concerning applicants for judicial positions.