



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

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850-717-9418

September 28, 2021

Ms. Kristen D. Hual
Chair – First Judicial Circuit
Judicial Nominating Commission
221 Palafox Place Suite 430
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Ms. Hual:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you convene the First 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 Okaloosa County Court. This appointment is for the new vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Patricia S. Grinstead, effective December 31, 2021. The Governor strongly prefers submission of the maximum number of nominees (six) for each vacancy.

The Commission's deadline for completion of this undertaking is **Thursday, October 28 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 Annie Ortega (850-717-9448; Annie.Ortega@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
General Counsel

cc: The Honorable John L. Miller
Chief Judge