



RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

# Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com  
850-717-9418

July 12, 2024

Mr. Robert Jones III

Dear Mr. Jones:

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 First Judicial Circuit Court (two vacancies) and the Santa Rosa County Court (one vacancy). These appointments are to fill the vacancies created by the resignation of Judge Wells and the enactment of HB 5401. The Governor strongly prefers submission of the maximum number of nominees (six) for each vacancy (three). The Commission's deadline for completion of this undertaking is **Tuesday, September 10, 2024**.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Newman".

Ryan Newman  
General Counsel

cc: The Honorable John L. Miller  
Chief Judge