

**TENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION  
POLK COUNTY COURT JUDGE VACANCY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 10, 2021

CONTACT: **Krista Mahalak, Chair**  
Tenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission  
(863) 294-3360

BARTOW – The Tenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission has been asked to provide Governor Ron DeSantis with nominees for the vacancy on the Polk County Court created by the elevation of **Judge Lori A. Winstead** to the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court.

The Commission requests that interested candidates submit an application for consideration. Applicants must meet the qualifications for county court judges described in Article V, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution.

Applicants must submit two (2) copies of their application by **5:00 pm on Friday, July 23, 2021**, as follows:

(1): The original unredacted application shall be emailed in .pdf format to: [kmahalak@petersonmyers.com](mailto:kmahalak@petersonmyers.com).

(2): A redacted .pdf of the application shall be emailed to [kmahalak@petersonmyers.com](mailto:kmahalak@petersonmyers.com). Personal information not subject to public disclosure—such as the social security number—shall be redacted as permitted by Section 119.071 of the Florida Statutes.

**Untimely applications will not be considered.** The filename for .pdf applications should be as follows “21.07.23 FIRSTNAME LASTNAME County Application (redacted /unredacted).”

Applications may be downloaded from the Florida Bar’s website at [www.flabar.org](http://www.flabar.org) and the Office of the Governor at [www.flgov.com](http://www.flgov.com).

**NOTE TO APPLICANTS:** To assist the Judicial Nominating Commission in its review of applications, all questions must be fully and completely answered. Applications must include current contact information, including e-mail addresses, for judges, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and references to facilitate the background investigation that will be conducted by the members of the Commission.

**TENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION MEMBERS**

<p>Krista Mahalak (<i>Chair</i>)          Peterson &amp; Myers, P.A.          242 West Central Avenue          Winter Haven, FL 33880          Tel.: 863-294-3360  <a href="mailto:kmahalak@petersonmyers.com">kmahalak@petersonmyers.com</a></p>	<p>Frederick J. Murphy, Jr. (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)          Boswell &amp; Dunlap, LLP          245 S. Central Avenue          Bartow, FL 33830          Tel.: 863-533-7117  <a href="mailto:fjm@bosdun.com">fjm@bosdun.com</a></p>
<p>Patrice F. Behnstedt          Office of the Public Defender          Polk County Courthouse 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor          P.O. Box 9000          Bartow, FL 33831-9000          Tel.: 863-534-4200  <a href="mailto:pbehnstedt@pd10.org">pbehnstedt@pd10.org</a></p>	<p>Benjamin W. Hardin, Jr.          Hardin &amp; Ball, P.A.          P.O. Box 3604          Lakeland, FL 33802-3604          Tel.: 863-688-5200  <a href="mailto:bwhardin@hardinpalaw.com">bwhardin@hardinpalaw.com</a></p>
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