



RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

# Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

[www.flgov.com](http://www.flgov.com)  
850-717-9418

July 6, 2021

Mr. Carter Andersen  
Chair – Thirteenth Judicial Circuit  
Judicial Nominating Commission  
1801 North Highland Ave.  
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear Mr. Andersen:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you convene the Thirteenth 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 Hillsborough County Court. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Joelle Ann Ober. The Governor strongly prefers submission of the maximum number of nominees (six) for the vacancy.

The Commission's deadline for completion of this undertaking is **Friday, August 13, 2021**. This includes a discretionary extension of 14 days, as authorized by Article V, Section 11(c) of the Florida Constitution.

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](mailto: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 "J. Uthmeier".

James Uthmeier  
General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Ronald Ficarrota  
Chief Judge