

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 10, 2020

**CONTACT: Lydia S. Zbrzezny, Chair**  
Tenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission  
(863) 656-6672

BARTOW – The Tenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission has been asked to provide Governor Ron DeSantis with nominees for the vacancy on the Tenth Judicial Circuit, Circuit Court created by the elevation of Judge John Stargel to the Second District Court of Appeal.

The Commission requests that interested candidates submit an application for consideration. Applicants must meet the qualifications for circuit 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 Monday, August 24, 2020** as follows:

- (1): The original unredacted application shall be emailed in .pdf format to: [lydia@southernatlanticlaw.com](mailto:lydia@southernatlanticlaw.com).
- (2): A redacted .pdf of the application shall be emailed to [lydia@southernatlanticlaw.com](mailto:lydia@southernatlanticlaw.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 “20.05.01 FIRSTNAME LASTNAME Circuit 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**

Lydia S. Zbrzezny ( <i>Chair</i> ) Southern Atlantic Law Group, PLLC 99 Sixth Street SW	Krista Mahalak ( <i>Vice-Chair</i> ) Peterson & Myers, P.A. 242 West Central Avenue
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<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  pbehnstedt@pd10.org</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>
<p>Frederick Murphy  Boswell &amp; Dunlap, LLP  245 S. Central Avenue  Bartow, FL 33830  Tel.: 863-533-7117  fjm@bosdun.com</p>	<p>Edward Blake Paul  Peterson &amp; Myers, P.A.  P.O. Box 24628  Lakeland, FL 33802-4628  Tel.: 863-683-6511  bpaul@petersonmyers.com</p>
<p>Robert S. Swaine  Swaine &amp; Harris, P.A.  425 S. Commerce Avenue  Sebring, FL 33870  Tel.: 8863-385-1549  <a href="mailto:bob@heartlandlaw.com">bob@heartlandlaw.com</a></p>	<p>Richard E. Straughn  Straughn &amp; Turner, P.A.  255 Magnolia Avenue SW  Winter Haven, FL 33880  Tel: 863-293-1184  <a href="mailto:Rstraughn@straughnturner.com">Rstraughn@straughnturner.com</a></p>
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