----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alan Landman**

Date: Mon, Jun 17, 2019 at 3:11 PM

Subject: Resignation

To:

Dear Joe,

Pursuant to our conversation moments ago, please allow this correspondence to serve as my formal resignation from the 18th Circuit JNC, effective immediately.

I was initially appointed to the JNC by Governor Charlie Crist on 9/11/08 and served through his tenure as Governor and through Governor Rick Scott's tenure, as well. As such, I have been on the JNC for over 10 years and have served as the Chair of the Committee during the majority of same.

I have always had a great relationship with both prior Governors and their administrations. Over the past 10 years, through all of the judicial appointments in the 18th Circuit, there has never been one single occasion where either the Governor (or his staff) has contacted me as the Chair and required a specified number of applicants to be on the short list. Historically (as required), it was always a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 applicants. Further, it has always been left to the Committee's sole discretion as to who was qualified and who was not in terms of the short list.

No prior Governor, or their administration, has ever "required" the JNC to put a prospective applicant on the short list which is what occurred during this most recent process with the current administration.

You advised that you are requesting my resignation because I committed a "technical" violation by leaving a message on Nick Primrose's answering machine after the short list was submitted to the Governor's office supporting one of the candidates on the list.

Once again, over the past 10 years, I have been actively solicited by prior Governors (as well as their General Counsel and staff) as to my personal and professional opinions on short list applicants since I have been practicing as a trial lawyer in Brevard County for approximately 32 years. Further, prior administrations welcomed my unsolicited input and expertise, as well, on short list applicants. This is why I was unaware it was a technical violation.

From my perspective, I believe the JNC should remain independent and autonomous from the Governor's office micro-managing same or requiring any applicant(s) to be put on the short list. While I do not have the JNC Rules in front of me as of this dictation, I do not believe there are any rules which expressly or implicitly authorize the Governor's office to micro-manage the JNC at the Committee level to this degree.

As a result of my philosophical differences with how your new administration has handled this recent appointment, I concur with your position that it is best for me to resign from the Committee and allow the Governor to appoint individuals who are more amiable and openminded as to how the current administration desires the process to occur.

It has always been an honor and privilege to serve on the JNC and I truly desired to continue to do so through Governor DeSantis' administration if the JNC was permitted to continue to maintain its independence and autonomy which I perceive did not occur.

I truly wish you the best and hope that the Governor will see fit to appoint qualified candidates, not only to fill my position, but also the other open positions on the Committee.

The 18th Circuit has some of the finest jurists in the State of Florida and, in large part, I believe that is due to the tireless efforts of the JNC members I have served with over the years and the prior Governors well reasoned and thought out appointments.

Please confirm receipt of this email so I know that you received it.

As always, I appreciate your professional courtesies!

--Alan Landman

Alan H. Landman, P.A.

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From: **Alan Landman**

Date: Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 12:30 PM

Subject: 18th Circuit JNC

To: Primrose, Nicholas

Dear Gentleman,

In follow up to our brief phone conversation this morning which took me a bit off guard, I have had an opportunity to think about the issues we discussed. I was appointed initially to the JNC by then Governor Crist on 9/11/08, reappointed numerous times thereafter by then Governor Scott, and my current appointment was on 3/31/17 with an ending date of 7/1/20.

I have essentially served on the Commission for over a decade and I have given my heart and soul to ensuring that the best qualified applicants ascend to the bench. This has resulted in what I believe to be some of the finest jurists in the 18th Judicial Circuit throughout the State of Florida.

I have served as the Chairman of the Commission for many years which makes me primarily responsible for handling all aspects of the appointment process. I have never had a single complaint brought to my attention during my tenure.

Both prior administrations not only actively solicited my input as Chairman of the Commission once the short list was submitted to their office but also welcomed any "initiated" input I had as well. Based upon same, I was **not** specifically aware of the Section VIII prohibition which you brought to my attention for the fist time this morning.

While I recognize the "technical" violation of the referenced section, I believe there is some mitigation associated with same in light of the above history.

I have always been a strong supporter of Governor DeSantis throughout his candidacy and in fact, I hosted a fundraiser for him at my house prior to office.

I recognize that every administration handles things differently and now that I am fully aware of Governor DeSantis' (and your) policy and procedures on appointments, I have no doubt that there will be strict compliance by all Commission members, as well as myself.

During our phone conversation, you thought it would be best if I tendered my resignation at what amounts to be a year earlier than my current term ending.

I would truly appreciate the opportunity, if possible, to <u>continue</u> on the Commission if the two of you and the Governor would reconsider your position on same.

I look forward to your thoughts and appreciate all that you do for the great State of Florida!

--Alan Landman
Alan H. Landman, P.A.