

RICHARD B. ORFINGER
DISTRICT JUDGE



DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL
FIFTH DISTRICT
300 SOUTH BEACH STREET
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA 32114-5097
TELEPHONE (386) 947-1510
FAX (386) 947-1562

December 22, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
The Capital
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

For the past 30 years, it has been my honor to serve first, as a Circuit Court Judge in the Seventh Judicial Circuit, and then as a District Judge on the Fifth District Court of Appeal. Working with the dedicated Judges and support staff that make up the Judicial Branch has been a great privilege. Nonetheless, I have decided to retire and write to advise you that I will leave my position as a District Judge at 11:59 p.m. on January 31, 2021.

With best regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard B. Orfinger".

Richard B. Orfinger

RBO/rth

cc: Joseph W. Jacquot, Esquire

General Counsel at joe.jacquot@eog.myflorida.com

cc: Judges, Fifth District Court of Appeal



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com

850-717-9418

January 4, 2021

Mr. Michael Sasso
Chair – Fifth Appellate District
Judicial Nominating Commission
1031 West Morse Boulevard, Suite 120
Winter Park, Florida 32789

Dear Mr. Sasso:

On behalf of Governor DeSantis, I am requesting that you convene the Fifth District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission for the purpose of selecting and submitting to the Governor the names of highly qualified lawyers for appointment to the Fifth District Court of Appeal. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Richard Orfinger. 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 **Wednesday, February 3, 2021**. In cases where a discretionary extension of no more than thirty days is needed, as authorized by Article V, Section 11(c) of the Florida Constitution, please contact me.

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 Erin Kraeft (850-717-9310; Erin.Kraeft@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 "James Uthmeier".

James Uthmeier
Acting General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Kerry Evander
Chief Judge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2021

CONTACT: Michael C. Sasso, Chair

TELEPHONE: (407) 644-7161

EMAIL: msasso@sasso-law.com

Fifth District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission

**FIFTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL VACANCY**

As a result of the retirement of the Hon. Judge Richard B. Orfinger, there is a vacancy in The Fifth District Court of Appeal and the Judicial Nominating Commission has been asked to provide Gov. Ron DeSantis with nominees for the vacancy.

1) Judicial applications for this one (1) District Court vacancy must be received **BEFORE 5:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 19, 2021**, at the following location:

c/o Michael C. Sasso, Chair
Fifth District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission
1031 W. Morse Boulevard, Suite 120
Winter Park, Florida 32789
msasso@sasso-law.com

Applications submitted after the deadline WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. All applicants must have been members of The Florida Bar for at least ten (10) years, electors of the State of Florida and be residents of the Fifth District Court of Appeal prior to taking office.

2) The **Judicial Application** (which can be downloaded from The Florida Bar website) must include:

- One (1) Digital (electronic) copy of the application (either as a .PDF or in Microsoft Word) to msasso@sasso-law.com; and One (1) Digital (electronic) copy of the application with personal information redacted in a format suitable for submission in response to public records requests;
- A recent photograph should be included;
- All letters of recommendation in your possessions that you wish the Commission to consider, however, these letters may also be sent as supplements, after the application is submitted;
- Copies of the applicant's completed Federal Income Tax Returns for the preceding three (3) years OR current financial statement and financial history. NOTE: if you are practicing law as a professional association, your tax returns for the three (3) year period should include the tax returns for the professional association;
- Any additional information which you feel may be helpful to the Commission in assessing your qualifications

3) After the deadline for submitting applications, the Commission will determine which applicants to interview. If you are to be interviewed, you will be contacted to confirm the date, time and location.

4) As you know, all proceedings of the Commission are open to the public except for

deliberations. Accordingly, you should not expect your application to be kept confidential.

5) If an applicant is nominated, all materials attached to the original application will be submitted to the Governor.

6) If there are any questions about the application process, please contact the Chair, Michael C. Sasso.

Commissioners:

Michael C. Sasso, Chair
Amanda Perry Carl, Vice Chair
R. David de Armas
Andy Bardos
Lauren Blocker
Vincent A. Citro
Craig S. Dyer
Carrie Eisnaugle
Milo Scott Thomas

Members of the bench, the Bar and the public are urged to contact the members of the Commission concerning applicants for judicial positions.

Please note: Florida has very broad public records laws. Many written communications to or from The Florida Bar regarding Bar business may be considered public records, which must be made available to anyone upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

