

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2026
Contact: Joe Jacquot, Chair

**FIFTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
ANNOUNCES VACANCY AND INTERVIEW DATE**

As a result of the elevation of Judge Jordan Pratt to the federal bench, there is a vacancy to be filled on the Fifth District Court of Appeal (DCA). Governor Ron DeSantis has asked the Fifth DCA Judicial Nominating Commission to provide him with highly qualified nominees for this vacancy.

Complete unredacted and redacted applications (see below for more information) for the vacancy must be received **before 5:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**, via e-mail to: jjacquot@gunster.com. The commission does not require a paper copy of the application. Applications may be downloaded from the Office of the Governor at www.flgov.com/eog/info ([Info Center](#) | [Executive Office of the Governor](#))

Neither incomplete applications nor applications submitted after the deadline will be considered. All applicants must meet the qualifications for judges outlined in Article V, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution.

Personal information not subject to public disclosure should be redacted by the applicant on a separate copy of the application as permitted by Section 119.071 of the Florida Statutes. Please also e-mail a digital photo with the application. To assist the Commission, all questions on the application must be fully and completely answered. Applications must include current contact information (especially direct phone numbers and preferably mobile phone numbers) 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. To the extent possible, written communication with Commissioners for background investigation purposes should be via e-mail rather than by text message. *Applicants shall not initiate contact with the Commissioners until the nominees are submitted to Governor DeSantis unless questions pertain to the application process only.*

Interviews are expected to be held on **Friday, June 5, 2026**, at the Fifth DCA Courthouse, library room, at 300 South Beach, Daytona Beach, Florida. An interview schedule will be provided in advance.

All proceedings of this Commission are open to the public except for deliberations. Accordingly, applicants should not expect their redacted application to be kept confidential. If an applicant is nominated, all materials attached to the application(s) will be submitted to the Office of General Counsel for Governor DeSantis.

If there are any questions about the application process, please contact Joe Jacquot at jjacquot@gunster.com or at (904) 350-7414.