

Judicial Nominating Commission Selects 6 Nominees for Vacant Circuit Judge Position

CLEARWATER – Two Pinellas County judges head the list of nominees from which Gov. Charlie Crist will fill a circuit judge's position that became vacant when Sixth Judicial Circuit Judge Robert Morris was appointed to a vacancy on the Second District Court of Appeal.

Four attorneys make up the rest of the list, released by Peter Meros, chair of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission (JNC). Names of the applicants are:

- Pinellas County Judge Paul Levine, who sits in the Criminal Division of Pinellas County Court;
- Pinellas County Judge Dorothy Vaccaro, who sits in the Civil Division of Pinellas County Court;
- Nathaniel Kidder, a principal at Kidder & Bennett, P.A., St. Petersburg;
- Belinda Lazzara, a principal at Meros Smith Lazzara & Olney P.A., St. Petersburg;
- Tom Minkoff, an attorney with Deeb & Durkin, P.A., St. Petersburg;
- Todd Miller, a sole practitioner in Clearwater.

The six were selected from a list of 23 applicants, who were interviewed by the JNC.

Once he receives the names, Gov. Crist has 60 days to name one to fill the vacancy.