

Judicial Nominating Commission To Conduct Interviews on Nov. 4

CLEARWATER – The Sixth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) will meet Saturday (Nov. 4) to interview 15 applicants for a vacant Pinellas County judgeship. The vacancy was created last month when County Judge Shawn Crane was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush to fill a vacant circuit judgeship.

Two magistrates are among the applicants for the vacant position. As magistrates, Joe Lovelace and Sara Rahdert oversee court proceedings directed to them by judges as a way of providing an expedited forum for the resolution of legal matters while preserving the right to due process.

Also among the applicants is Glenn Martin, an assistant state attorney who is on Tuesday's ballot in a runoff election for a circuit judge vacancy.

JNC Chair Emory Wood said the 20-minute interviews will be conducted in the Eleazer Hearing Room on the Gulfport Campus of the Stetson University College of Law. The interviews, open to the public, will begin at 9 a.m.

Following the interviews, the JNC will present Gov. Jeb Bush with a list of at least three names and no more than six for the position. By law, Bush will have 60 days to select an appointee from the JNC's list.

In interview order, the applicants being considered are: Loula Giannet, David Tobiassen, Myriam Irizarry, Donald P. Gibson, Martin, Nathaniel Kidder, Robert Surette, Mary Morrissey Handsel, Gregory Williams, Lovelace, Carl Edward Brody Jr., Thomas Minkoff, Cheryl Smith-Kahn, Rahdert, and Robert Dittmer.

Judge Crane was appointed to fill a circuit judge vacancy created by the removal from office of former Judge John Renke.