



Supreme Court of Florida

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WOODROW KERCE II
INTERIM MARSHAL

January 11, 2024

Candidates for Judicial Office:

Congratulations on your decision to seek election or re-election to judicial office. The courts stand at the heart of the constitutional republic and, in endeavoring to preserve and strengthen our system of government, the judicial branch relies on many dedicated individuals willing to serve the public good. Looking ahead to the 2024 elections, I ask you to conduct your campaigns in a manner not only exemplifying this commitment to service, but also further justifying continued public trust and confidence in our judicial system.

Toward this end, the Supreme Court of Florida and The Florida Bar Board of Governors, in concert with the state's trial court chief judges and the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, will present campaign conduct forums the week following the close of qualifying. All judicial candidates drawing opposition will be expected to participate personally in one of several forums beginning at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, May 2, or Friday, May 3, or participate in the statewide webinar. The enclosed preliminary schedule lists planned locations.

Candidates, committee chairs, campaign managers, and staff will be provided critical information regarding requirements under Canon 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Given the potential for reprimand, removal from office, or lawyer discipline, failure to

comply with the Code should be a matter of no small concern. Presenters will also more broadly emphasize the seriousness with which the Court views any abuse of the elections process and the consequent impact of campaign misconduct on public trust and confidence in the judicial branch.

The Code of Judicial Conduct as well as other resources, including the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee's handbook on judicial elections, *An Aid to Understanding Canon 7*, may be accessed online at <https://supremecourt.flcourts.gov/Opinions/Judicial-Ethics-Advisory-Committee>. All candidates are strongly encouraged to read and become thoroughly familiar with these materials.

Given the importance of the service to which you aspire, please mark your calendars and plan now to participate personally in one of the forums. A roster of those attending will be made available, upon request, to the Judicial Qualifications Commission and The Florida Bar.

Sincerely,



Carlos G. Muñiz

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