

2026-2027 COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY REGISTRY APPLICATION (GENERAL)

Instructions: Please complete this application in its entirety. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for completion. Please print legibly in blue or black ink or type. A copy of your Florida Bar card must be included with the application at the time of submission. Please mail applications to:

Chief Judge
Tenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
P.O. Box 9000, Drawer J146
Bartow, Florida 33831-9000

NAME: _____ BAR NUMBER: _____
(As it appears on your Florida Bar membership)

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____
(A)(Official Bar mailing address pursuant to Rule Regulating the Florida Bar, Rule 1-3.3)

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____
(B)(If different, the principal place of employment pursuant to Rule 1-3.3)

BUSINESS PHONE: _____ BUSINESS FAX: _____

EMAIL(1): _____ EMAIL(2): _____
(At least one email address is required.)

1. Please check all of the following professional requirements that apply to you:

- I am a member in good standing with the Florida Bar.
- I maintain malpractice insurance.
- I maintain a principal office in the Tenth Judicial Circuit (Polk, Highlands, or Hardee Counties) (hereinafter "Circuit") and will regularly meet with court-appointed clients at that office. "Principal office" is defined as a physical location within the Circuit at which counsel provides legal services and regularly meets with clients. A post office box within the Circuit, without more, is insufficient to meet the requirement of having a principal office in the Circuit. The principal office requirement may be waived subject to special consideration for particular cases or case types.
- I will make every effort to appear in person for every hearing on every case to which I am appointed. Excessive failure to personally appear may result in removal from the Court Appointed Attorney Registry. I will also travel to the Polk County Jail in Frostproof, Florida, on a regular basis to meet with clients.
- I have read the qualifications attached to this application and affirm that I meet or exceed the qualifications to be appointed as counsel for the cases that I have checked on this application.
- If I have indicated in my application that I will accept appointment of capital trial or appellate cases, I further affirm that I have not been disqualified under section 27.7045, Florida Statutes from "represent[ing] a person charged with a capital offense at trial or on direct appeal or a person sentenced to death in a postconviction proceeding . . ."

- I will not solicit compensation from clients or family member of clients that I am appointed to represent.
- I have reviewed and understand the contract for attorney's services and other relevant documents located on the Justice Administrative Commission's website at www.JusticeAdmin.com.
- I agree that I will enter into a contract for services with the Justice Administrative Commission.
- I agree to comply with the Justice Administrative Commission's requirements for billing.
- I will notify the Polk, Hardee, or Highlands County Clerk of the Court, [the Chief Judge], and the Justice Administrative Commission of any change in my status with the Florida Bar.
- I will notify the Chief Judge of any change in the area(s) of practice for which I seek appointment.
- I will notify the Chief Judge of any formal complaint filed by The Florida Bar against me and any non-confidential consent agreements entered into between me and The Florida Bar.

**2. I will accept appointment of cases in the following counties:
(Please check all that apply)**

- Hardee County
- Highlands County
- Polk County

**3. I will accept appointment in trial level courts in the following types of cases:
(Please check all that apply)**

Criminal

- Capital – 1st Degree Murder (Lead Counsel)
- Capital – 1st Degree Murder (Co-Counsel)
- Capital – 1st Degree Murder – Death Penalty Waived
- Capital Sexual Battery
- Capital Collateral
- Felony
- Felony – Life
- Felony – Life – RICO
- Felony – Non-Capital Murder
- Felony – Punishable by Life
- Felony – Punishable by Life – RICO
- Felony – 1st Degree
- Felony – 1st Degree – RICO
- Felony – 2nd Degree
- Felony – 3rd Degree
- Felony – Violation of Probation (includes VOCC)
- Misdemeanor
- Criminal Traffic
- Misdemeanor – Violation of Probation (includes VOCC)

- Contempt Proceedings
- Extradition
- Extradition (MM)
- Post-Conviction (Rules 3.800 and 3.850) (includes post-conviction petitions for habeas corpus and petitions for belated appeal)
- Post-Conviction 3.800 and 3.850 (MM)
- Sexual Violent Predator

Delinquency

- Juvenile Delinquency
- Juvenile Delinquency – 1st Degree Felony
- Juvenile Delinquency – 2nd Degree Felony
- Juvenile Delinquency – 3rd Degree Felony
- Juvenile Delinquency – Felony Life
- Juvenile Delinquency – Misdemeanor
- Juvenile Delinquency – Violation of Probation (includes VOCC)

Dependency, Termination of Parental Rights, and Dependent Children with Special Needs

- Juvenile Dependency
- Juvenile Dependency – Termination of Parental Rights (Ch. 39, F.S.)
- Special Needs Children in Skilled Nursing Facility
- Special Needs Children with Psychotropic Medication
- Special Needs Children with Developmental Disability
- Special Needs Children in Residential Treatment Center
- Special Needs Children – Victims of Human Trafficking

Guardianship

- Guardianship (Ch. 744, F.S.)
- Guardianship – Emergency (Ch. 744, F.S.)

Baker/Marchman Act

- Baker/Mental Health (Ch. 394, F.S.)
- Marchman Act/Substance Abuse (Ch. 397, F.S.)

Other Children's Civil

- CINS/FINS – Ch. 984, F.S.
- Emancipation (§743.015, F.S.)
- Waiver of Parental Notification of Abortion (Ch. 390, F.S.)

Other Adult Civil

- Adult Protective Services (Ch. 415, F.S.)
- Developmentally Disabled Adult (Ch. 393, F.S.)
- Termination of Parental Rights (Ch. 63, F.S.)

Other Civil Health

- Admission of Inmate to Mental Health Facility
- Medical Procedures (§394.459(3)(C), F.S.)

- Tuberculosis (Ch. 392, F.S.)
- STD (Ch. 384, F.S.)

Appeals

- Capital Appeals
- Felony Appeals
- Felony Appeals - RICO
- Juvenile Delinquency Appeals
- Misdemeanor Appeals
- Misdemeanor Appeals (CT)
- Dependency Appeals
- Termination of Parental Rights Appeals
- Sexual Violent Predator Appeals
- Civil Appeals

4. Qualifications for Court Appointments – Juvenile Delinquency and Criminal.

A. Trial attorneys appointed by the Court must:

1. Be a member in good standing with The Florida Bar.
2. Be in compliance with The Florida Bar's approved continuing legal education requirements, having attended within the previous 24 months a minimum of ten hours of Florida Bar approved continuing legal education devoted to criminal law.
3. Maintain malpractice insurance.
4. Meet the following experience requirements:
 - a. In misdemeanor cases the attorney shall have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least one year and an experienced and active trial practitioner with no fewer than three state or federal jury or non-jury trials.
 - b. In juvenile cases the attorney shall have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least one year and an experienced and active trial practitioner with no fewer than three delinquency dispositions of three state or federal jury or non-jury trials.
 - c. In third degree felony cases the attorney shall have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least two years and an experienced and active trial practitioner with no fewer than three state or federal jury or non-jury trials.
 - d. In second degree felony cases the attorney shall have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least two years and an experienced and active trial practitioner with no fewer than seven state or federal jury trials.
 - e. In life felony cases and capital sexual battery cases, the attorney shall have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least five years and an experienced and active trial practitioner with no fewer than ten state or federal jury trials.
 - f. In capital death penalty cases, lead counsel and second chair counsel shall meet minimum standards for attorneys in capital cases as set out in Rule 3.112, Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, and have not been disqualified to provide capital case representation pursuant to section 27.7045, Florida Statutes.

B. Appellate attorneys appointed by the Court must:

1. Be a member in good standing with The Florida Bar.

2. Be in compliance with The Florida Bar's approved continuing legal education requirements, having attended within the previous 24 months a minimum of six hours of Florida Bar approved continuing legal education devoted to appellate law.
3. Maintain malpractice insurance.
4. Meet the following experience requirements:
 - a. In misdemeanor and third degree felony appeals, the attorney shall have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least two years and an experienced and active practitioner in the field of appellate criminal law or have prior experience in the appeal of at least three criminal cases.
 - b. In non-capital felony appeals, the attorney shall have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least three years and an experienced and active practitioner in the field of appellate criminal law or have experience in the appeal of at least five criminal cases.
 - c. In capital death penalty appeals, the attorney shall meet minimum standards for attorneys in capital cases as set out in Rule 3.112, Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, and must not have been disqualified to provide capital case representation pursuant to section 27.7045, Florida Statutes.

5. Qualifications for Court Appointments – Jimmy Ryce Civil Commitments

- A. Trial attorneys appointed by the Court must:
 1. Be a member in good standing with The Florida Bar.
 2. Be in compliance with The Florida Bar's approved continuing legal education requirements, having attended within the previous 24 months a minimum of ten hours of Florida Bar approved continuing legal education devoted to criminal or civil law.
 3. Maintain malpractice insurance.
 4. Have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least five years and an experienced and active trial practitioner with no fewer than ten state or federal jury trials.
- B. Appellate attorneys appointed by the Court must:
 1. Be a member in good standing with The Florida Bar.
 2. Be in compliance with The Florida Bar's approved continuing legal education requirements, having attended within the previous 24 months a minimum of six hours of Florida Bar approved continuing legal education devoted to appellate law.
 3. Maintain malpractice insurance.
 4. Have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least three years and an experienced and active practitioner in the field of appellate criminal law or have experience in the appeal of at least five criminal or civil cases.

6. Qualifications for Court Appointments – Dependency, Termination of Parental Rights, and Dependent Children with Special Needs

Trial and appellate attorneys appointed by the Court must:

- A. Be a member in good standing with The Florida Bar.
- B. Maintain malpractice insurance.
- C. For appointment in dependency cases, have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least three years and an experienced and active trial practitioner.
- D. For appointment in termination of parental rights cases, have been a member of The Florida

Bar for at least five years and an experienced and active trial practitioner having handled no fewer than three dependency cases.

- E. For appointment in any appeal in a termination of parental rights case, meet the requirements in section (4) above or have been an experienced and active appellate practitioner for at least three years.
- F. For appointment in dependent children with special needs cases, have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least three years and an experienced and active trial practitioner.
- G. For appointment in “egregious conduct” of other “front-end” termination of parental rights cases, have previously tried or participated in a minimum of three such cases.
- H. Be familiar with Chapter 39, Florida Statutes; the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure; and the *Florida Guidelines of Practice for Lawyers who Represent Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases* developed by The Florida Bar’s Standing Committee on the Legal Needs of Children.
- I. Not be in a position whereby such appointment would cause the attorney to take a position which is in opposition to a former client, unless such representation occurred more than two years before current appointment.
- J. Be in compliance with The Florida Bar’s approved continuing legal education requirements, having attended within the previous 24 months a minimum of six hours of Florida Bar approved continuing legal education devoted to Dependency, Termination of Parental Rights, Mental Health, Child Development, Child Abuse/Neglect, or other Juvenile related areas.

7. Qualifications for Court Appointments – Mental and Public Health

Trial and appellate attorneys appointed by the Court must:

- A. Be a member in good standing with The Florida Bar.
- B. Maintain malpractice insurance.
- C. Have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least one year and an experienced and active trial practitioner.
- D. Be in compliance with The Florida Bar’s approved continuing legal education requirements, having attended within the previous 24 months a minimum of six hours of Florida Bar approved continuing legal education devoted to probate and/or guardianship law.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the statements contained herein and on any attachments are true, correct, complete, and made in good faith. I understand that any omissions, falsifications, misstatements, or misrepresentations above may disqualify me for consideration and, if I am accepted to the registry, may be grounds for refusal of appointment or dismissal at a later date. I understand that if appointed, I am required to sign and adhere to the contract with the Justice Administrative Commission, and applicable policies and procedures established by the Tenth Judicial Circuit and the Justice Administrative Commission. I further certify that I have read the above-described qualifications and that I meet all the specified requirements to be appointed by the Court in the types of cases that I have designated above.

Signature of Applicant / Date