

SUCCESSION OF JUSTICES OF SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

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Revised by Jo Dowling & the Supreme Court Public Information Office

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Under 1838 Constitution, Circuit Judges selected by the Legislature constituted the Supreme Court:

Thomas Douglas	Thomas Baltzell	George S. Hawkins	George W. Macrae
			Joseph B. Lancaster

Under 1838 Constitution as amended and under Chapter 371, Acts of 1850-51, separate Supreme Court Justices were selected by the Legislature:

Walker Anderson	Leslie A. Thompson	Albert G. Semmes
Benjamin D. Wright		

In 1853 (under an amendment to the Constitution adopted in 1850 and 1853) the Justices were elected by the electors of the state for the first time:

Thomas Baltzell	Thomas Douglas	Charles H. DuPont
	Bird M. Pearson	

In 1859 DuPont defeated Baltzell as Chief Justice and Pearson did not run for re-election:

Charles H. DuPont	William A. Forward	David Shelby Walker
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Under 1865 Constitution, the Governor appointed the Justices:

Charles H. DuPont	Augustus E. Maxwell	James M. Baker
	Samuel J. Douglas	

From 1868 the succession to the seats on the Supreme Court has been continuous even though the method of selection of Justices has changed:

Justices under the 1868 Constitution were appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to serve "for life or during good behavior."

The 1885 Constitution provided for the election in 1888 of the Justices, the Chief Justice to be designated by lot.

In 1972 Article V of the 1968 Constitution was revised to provide for the election of the Chief Justice by the majority of the members of the Court.

The 1968 Constitution was amended in 1976 to provide for one Justice from each appellate district. That amendment additionally provided for the merit selection of Justices with the Governor selecting the Justice from a list of three names forwarded to him by the appropriate Judicial Nominating Commission. The newly appointed Justice must stand for merit retention by the voters in the first general election following his appointment.

In 1996, the Constitution was amended to provide that the Judicial Nominating Commission must submit a list of three to six names for the vacancy, and that the newly appointed Justice shall appear on the next general election ballot that is more than one year after the date of appointment.

Successors to the Current Seats on the Supreme Court

Edwin M. Randall	Ossian B. Hart	James D. Westcott, Jr.
George G. McWhorter	Franklin Fraser	George P. Raney
Augustus E. Maxwell	Robert B. VanValkenburgh	Benjamin S. Liddon
Milton H. Mabry	Henry L. Mitchell	Francis B. Carter
William A. Hocker	Robert F. Taylor	Charles B. Parkhill
William H. Ellis	Louie W. Strum	<i>(There were only 5 Justices after he</i>
Elwyn Thomas	Fred H. Davis	<i>resigned in Jan. 1912 until Glenn</i>
Joseph A. Boyd, Jr.	Roy H. Chapman	<i>Terrell was added May 15, 1923)</i>
Gerald Kogan	E. Harris Drew	Glenn Terrell
R. Fred Lewis	Hal P. Dekle	Richard W. Ervin
Barbara Lagoa	Alan C. Sundberg	Arthur J. England, Jr.
John Couriel	Leander J. Shaw, Jr.	Raymond Ehrlich
	Kenneth B. Bell	Major B. Harding
	Ricky Polston	Raoul G. Cantero
		Charles T. Canady

Added Dec. 1, 1902

Thomas M. Shackelford
Thomas F. West
Rivers Buford
T. Frank Hobson
Millard F. Caldwell
James C. Adkins
Stephen H. Grimes
Barbara J. Pariente
Robert J. Luck
Jamie R. Grosshans

Added Dec. 1, 1902

Evelyn C. Maxwell
James B. Whitfield
Harold L. Sebring
Stephen C. O'Connell
Alto Adams
Wade L. Hopping
Vassar B. Carlton
Ben F. Overton
Peggy A. Quince
Carlos G. Muñiz

Added Dec. 1, 1902

Robert S. Cockrell
Jefferson B. Browne
Armstead Brown
Paul D. Barns
B. K. Roberts
Frederick B. Karl
James E. Alderman
Rosemary Barkett
Harry Lee Anstead
Jorge Labarga

Added Nov. 25, 1940

Alto Adams
John E. Mathews
Campbell Thornal
David L. McCain
Joseph W. Hatchett
Parker Lee McDonald
Charles T. Wells
James E.C. Perry
Alan Lawson

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

<u>Justice (County)</u>	<u>Date Named to Court</u>		<u>Termination Date</u>
1. Thomas Douglas (St. Johns)	January	1846 Selected by legislature	1851
		1854 Elected	Sept. 11, 1855 Died in office
2. Thomas Baltzell (Leon)	January	1846 Selected by legislature	1851
		1854 Elected	1859 Defeated
			Jan. 14, 1866 Died
3. George S. Hawkins (Franklin)	January	1846 Selected by legislature	1851
			March 15, 1878 Died
4. George W. Macrae (Monroe)	Jan. 4,	1847 Appointed	Jan. 7, 1848
			Date of death unknown
5. Joseph B. Lancaster (Duval)	Jan. 10,	1848 Appointed	1853
			Nov. 25, 1856 Died
6. Walker Anderson (Escambia)	Jan. 1,	1851 Selected by legislature	May 4, 1853 Resigned
			Jan. 18, 1857 Died
7. Leslie A. Thompson (Leon)	Jan. 1,	1851 Selected by legislature	1853 Defeated
			Jan. 23, 1874 Died
8. Albert G. Semmes (Franklin)	Jan. 1,	1851 Selected by legislature	1853
			Nov. 25, 1883 Died
9. Benjamin D. Wright (Escambia)	May 24,	1853 Appointed	1853 Defeated
			April 28, 1874 Died
10. Charles H. DuPont (Gadsden)		1854 Elected	1868
			Oct. 14, 1877 Died
11. Bird M. Pearson (Duval)		1856 Elected	1859 Did not run again
			Oct. 9, 1859 Died
12. William A. Forward (Putnam)		1860 Elected	1865 Did not run again
			Oct. 19, 1865 Died
13. David Shelby Walker (Leon)		1860 Elected	1865 Resigned
			July 20, 1891 Died
14. Augustus E. Maxwell (Escambia)		1865 Appointed	1866 Resigned
	July 1,	1887 Appointed	1890 Did not run again
			May 5, 1903 Died
15. James McNair Baker (Duval)		1865 Appointed	1868
			June 20, 1892 Died
16. Samuel J. Douglas (Leon)		1866 Appointed	1868
			Nov. 14, 1873 Died
17. Edwin M. Randall (Duval)	January	1869 Appointed	Jan. 7, 1885 Resigned
			July 12, 1895 Died
18. Ossian B. Hart (Duval)		1868 Appointed	1873 Elected Governor
			March 18, 1874 Died
19. James D. Westcott, Jr. (Leon)		1868 Appointed	Jan. 7, 1885 Resigned
			April 29, 1887 Died
20. Franklin D. Fraser (Duval)	Jan. 16,	1873 Appointed	May 1874 Resigned
			Nov. 10, 1879 Died
21. Robert Bruce VanValkenburgh (Duval)	May 20,	1874 Appointed (Confirmed Jan. 1875)	Aug. 1, 1888 Died in office
22. George P. Raney (Leon)	Jan. 13,	1885 Appointed	May 31, 1894 Resigned

				Jan. 8, 1911 Died
23.	George G. McWhorter (Santa Rosa)	Jan. 13, 1885	Appointed	July 1, 1887 Resigned May 21, 1891 Died
24.	Henry Laurens Mitchell (Hillsborough)	Aug. 7, 1888	Appointed Later in 1888 Elected	Jan. 1, 1891 Resigned Oct. 14, 1903 Died
25.	R. Fenwick Taylor (Alachua)	Jan. 1, 1891	Appointed	Feb. 28, 1925 Resigned Feb. 26, 1927 Died
26.	Milton Harvey Mabry (Lake)	Jan. 1891	Elected	1903 Did not run again March 3, 1919 Died
27.	Benjamin S. Liddon (Jackson)	June 1, 1894	Appointed	Jan. 1897 Resigned Dec. 21, 1909 Died
28.	Francis B. Carter (Jackson)	Jan. 11, 1897	Appointed	May 25, 1905 Resigned Jan. 9, 1937 Died
29.	Thomas M. Shackelford (Hillsborough)	Dec. 1, 1902	Appointed	Sept. 1, 1917 Resigned Sept. 21, 1927 Died
30.	Robert S. Cockrell (Duval)	Dec. 1, 1902	Appointed	Jan. 2, 1917 Defeated June 23, 1957 Died
31.	Evelyn C. Maxwell (Escambia)	Dec. 1, 1902	Appointed	Feb. 15, 1904 Resigned Nov. 17, 1954 Died
32.	William A. Hocker (Marion)	Jan. 6, 1903	Appointed	Jan. 5, 1915 Did not run again July 17, 1918 Died
33.	James B. Whitfield (Leon)	Feb. 15, 1904	Appointed	Jan. 4, 1943 Retired Aug. 21, 1948 Died
34.	Charles B. Parkhill (Hillsborough)	May 25, 1905	Appointed	Jan. 1912 Resigned May 13, 1933 Died
35.	William H. Ellis (Gadsden)	Jan. 5, 1915	Elected	Nov. 1, 1938 Retired April 14, 1948 Died
36.	Jefferson B. Browne (Monroe)	Jan. 2, 1917	Elected	May 20, 1925 Resigned May 4, 1937 Died
37.	Thomas F. West (Santa Rosa)	Sept. 1, 1917	Appointed	Dec. 3, 1925 Resigned Feb 23, 1931 Died
38.	W. Glenn Terrell (Sumter)	May 15, 1923	Appointed	Jan. 12, 1964 Died in office
39.	Louie W. Strum (Duval)	Mach. 2, 1925	Appointed	Mar. 5, 1931 Resigned, appt'd. to fed. Dist. Ct July 26, 1954 Died
40.	Armstead Brown (Dade)	July 1, 1925	Appointed	Dec. 1, 1946 Retired Oct. 29, 1951 Died
41.	Rivers Buford (Leon)	Dec. 4, 1925	Appointed	Apr. 3, 1948 Retired March 17, 1959 Died
42.	Fred Henry Davis (Leon)	Mar. 9, 1931	Appointed	June 20, 1937 Died in office
43.	Roy H. Chapman (Columbia)	June 23, 1937	Appointed	Aug. 9, 1952 Died in office
44.	Elwyn Thomas (St. Lucie)	Nov. 1, 1938	Elected & then appointed early	Jan. 7, 1969 Retired Feb. 28, 1971 Died
45.	Alto Adams (St. Lucie) (2 terms)	Nov. 25, 1940 Nov. 13, 1967	Appointed Appointed	Oct. 22, 1951 Resigned Aug. 1, 1968 Resigned Feb. 28, 1988 Died
46.	Harold L. Sebring (Alachua)	Jan. 5, 1943	Elected	Sept. 15, 1955 Retired, appointed

			July. 26,	Dean at Stetson (Law) 1969 Died
47. Paul D. Barns (Dade)	Dec. 2,	1946 Elected & then appointed early	Sept. 1,	1949 Retired
			Sept. 22,	1973 Died
48. T. Frank Hobson (Pinellas)	April 6,	1948 Appointed	Feb. 13,	1962 Retired
			Aug. 3,	1966 Died
49. B. K. Roberts (Leon)	Sept. 1,	1949 Appointed	Nov. 30,	1976 Retired
			Aug. 4,	1999 Died
50. John E. Mathews (Duval)	Oct. 23,	1951 Appointed & qualified Oct. 30	Apr. 30,	1955 Died in office
51. E. Harris Drew (Palm Beach)	Aug. 18,	1952 Appointed	Jan. 5,	1971 Retired
			Feb. 9,	1978 Died
52. Campbell Thornal (Orange)	May 9,	1955 Appointed	Nov. 4,	1970 Died in office
53. Stephen C. O'Connell (Broward)	Oct. 21,	1955 Appointed	Oct. 15,	1967 Resigned
			April 13,	2001 Died
54. Millard F. Caldwell (Leon)	Feb. 14,	1962 Appointed	Jan. 7,	1969 Could not run again
			Feb. 24,	1986 Died
55. Richard W. Ervin (Putnam)	Jan. 17,	1964 Appointed	Jan. 6,	1975 Retired
			Aug. 24,	2004 Died
56. Wade L. Hopping (Leon)	Aug. 1,	1968 Appointed	Jan. 7,	1969 Defeated
			Aug. 11,	2009 Died
57. Vassar B. Carlton (Brevard)	Jan. 7,	1969 Elected	Feb. 28,	1974 Retired
			Aug. 31,	2005 Died
58. James C. Adkins, Jr. (Alachua)	Jan. 7,	1969 Elected	Jan. 6,	1987 Could not run again
			June 24,	1994 Died
59. Joseph A. Boyd, Jr. (Dade)	Jan. 7,	1969 Elected	Jan. 6,	1987 Retired, returned to private practice
			Oct. 26,	2007 Died
60. David L. McCain (St. Lucie)	Dec. 14,	1970 Appointed	Aug. 31,	1975 Resigned under impeachment
			Nov. 11,	1986 Died
61. Hal P. Dekle (Dade)	Jan. 5,	1971 Elected	Apr. 30,	1975 Retired under impeachment
			May 23,	2005 Died
62. Ben F. Overton (Pinellas)	Mar. 27,	1974 Appointed	Jan. 4,	1999 Could not run again
			Dec. 29,	2012 Died
63. Arthur J. England, Jr. (Dade)	Jan. 8,	1975 Elected	Aug. 9,	1981 Resigned, returned to private practice
			Aug. 1,	2013 Died
64. Alan C. Sundberg (Pinellas)	June 2,	1975 Appointed	Sept. 15,	1982 Resigned, returned to private practice
			Jan. 26,	2002 Died
65. Joseph W. Hatchett (Pinellas)	Sept. 2,	1975 Appointed	Jul. 18,	1979 Resigned, appointed to U.S. 5th (later 11th) Cir. Ct. of Appeals, Died Apr. 30, 2021

66. Frederick B. Karl (Leon)	Jan. 4, 1977 Elected	Apr. 5, 1978 Resigned, returned to private practice
67. James E. Alderman (St. Lucie)	Apr. 11, 1978 Appointed	March 7, 2013 Died Aug. 31, 1985 Resigned, Died June 10, 2021
68. Parker Lee McDonald (Orange)	Oct. 26, 1979 Appointed	May 31, 1994 Retired June 24, 2017 Died
69. Raymond Ehrlich (Duval)	Dec. 3, 1981 Appointed	Jan. 7, 1991 Retired July 12, 2005 Died
70. Leander J. Shaw, Jr. (Duval)	Jan. 10, 1983 Appointed	Jan. 6, 2003 Could not run again Dec. 14, 2015 Died
71. Rosemary Barkett (Palm Beach)	Nov. 15, 1985 Appointed	Apr. 21, 1994 Resigned, appt'd to U.S. 11th Cir. Ct. of Appeals
72. Stephen H. Grimes (Polk)	Jan. 30, 1987 Appointed	Nov. 17, 1997 Mandatory retirement; died Sept. 10, 2021
73. Gerald Kogan (Dade)	Jan. 30, 1987 Appointed	Dec. 31, 1998 Retired; died March 4, 2021
74. Major Best Harding (Duval)	Jan. 28, 1991 Appointed	Aug. 31, 2002 Retired, returned to private practice
75. Charles T. Wells (Orange)	June 9, 1994 Appointed	March 2, 2009 Mandatory retirement
76. Harry Lee Anstead (Palm Beach)	Aug. 29, 1994 Appointed	Jan. 5, 2009 Mandatory retirement
77. Barbara J. Pariente (Palm Beach)	Dec. 10, 1997 Appointed	Jan. 7, 2019, Mandatory retirement
78. R. Fred Lewis (Dade)	Dec. 7, 1998 Appointed	Jan. 7, 2019, Mandatory retirement
79. Peggy A. Quince (Hillsborough)	Dec. 8, 1998 Appointed	Jan. 7, 2019, Mandatory retirement
80. Raoul G. Cantero (Dade)	July 10, 2002 Appointed	Sept. 6, 2008 Resigned; returned to private practice
81. Kenneth B. Bell (Escambia)	Dec. 30, 2002 Appointed	Oct. 1, 2008 Resigned; returned to private practice
82. Charles T. Canady (Polk)	Aug. 28, 2008 Appointed	On Ballot 2028
83. Ricky Polston (Jackson)	October 1, 2008 Appointed	March 31, 2023, Resigned
84. Jorge Labarga (Palm Beach)	January 2, 2009 Appointed	On Ballot 2028
85. James E.C. Perry (Seminole)	March 11, 2009 Appointed	Dec. 30, 2016 Mandatory retirement
86. Alan Lawson (Orange)	Dec. 31, 2016 Appointed	August 31, 2022, Resigned
87. Barbara Lagoa (Dade)	Jan. 9, 2019 Appointed	Dec. 6, 2019 Resigned, appt'd to U.S. 11th Cir. Ct. of Appeals
88. Robert J. Luck (Dade)	Jan. 14, 2019 Appointed	Nov. 19, 2019 Resigned, appt'd to U.S. 11th Cir. Ct. of Appeals

89. Carlos G. Muñiz (Leon)	Jan. 22, 2019 Appointed	On Ballot 2026
90. John D. Couriel (Dade)	June 1, 2020 Appointed	On Ballot 2028
91. Jamie R. Grosshans (Orange)	Sept. 15, 2020 Appointed	On Ballot 2028
92. Renatha Francis (Palm Beach)	Sept. 1, 2022 Appointed	On Ballot 2024

*** CURRENT JUSTICES IN
BOLD**

Breakdown of Current Justices by Residence at Time of Appointment

First District: Ricky Polston, Carlos G. Muñiz
Second District: Charles T. Canady
Third District: John D. Couriel
Fourth District: Jorge Labarga
Fifth District: Alan Lawson, Jame R. Grosshans

NOTE: The present Florida Constitution requires that, at any given time, at least one Justice must have been a resident of the territory of each of the five District Courts of Appeal at the time of appointment to the Court. Thus, at-large seats are determined solely by the composition of the Court when a vacancy is filled. At the present time, a vacancy in the First and Fifth District slots would create at-large seats. Others would be district appointments.