



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

CHRISTOPHER C. SABELLA
CHIEF JUDGE

GINA JUSTICE
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

April 4, 2025

Dear Attorneys:

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit is now accepting applications for its Registry of Court-Appointed Counsel for Biennial Fiscal Years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. The number of attorneys will be limited in all Registry categories. All applications are required to be submitted electronically.

All attorneys who wish to be considered for any category must complete the 18-page application, including the corresponding addendum(s) and attorney certification. The completed application must be submitted electronically no later than 5 p.m. on **May 2, 2025** to: **COURT-APPOINTED-COUNSEL-REGISTRY@FLJUD13.ORG**. Hard copies will not be considered.

We will post the updated Registry for all categories for the upcoming fiscal year on our website at **www.fljud13.org** by June 30, 2025.

Thank you for your anticipated service to the citizens of our circuit.

Sincerely,

Christopher C. Sabella
Chief Judge



Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Court-Appointed Counsel Registry | Fiscal Years 2025-2026 & 2026-2027

**Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Biennial
Court-Appointed Counsel Registry Application**

Please print legibly or type.

Name of
Attorney: _____

Florida Bar
Number: _____

Florida Bar
Admission Date: _____

Business
Address: _____

Mailing Address
(if different): _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Business Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Business Fax: _____



Thirteenth Judicial Circuit ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Court-Appointed Counsel Registry | Fiscal Years 2025-2026 & 2026-2027

Registry Categories

Check all limited registry categories for which you are seeking appointment for Fiscal Years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. Please note that all registry categories require the completion of an addendum(s).

- ☐ Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)
- ☐ Children with Special Needs
- ☐ Juvenile Dependency
- ☐ Juvenile Dependency / TPR Appeals
- ☐ Juvenile Delinquency
- ☐ Juvenile Delinquency Contempt Proceedings
- ☐ Juvenile Delinquency Appeals
- ☐ Judicial Waiver of Parental Notification of Abortion Act
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Adult Protective Services (includes Appeals)
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Adult Protective Services Contempt Proceedings
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Baker Act (includes Appeals)
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Baker Act Contempt Proceedings
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Developmental Disabilities (includes Appeals)
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Developmental Disabilities Contempt Proceedings
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Guardianship (includes Appeals)
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Guardianship Contempt Proceedings
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Marchman Act (includes Appeals)
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Marchman Act Contempt Proceedings
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Sexually Transmissible Diseases / Tuberculosis (includes Appeals)
- ☐ Guardianship/Mental Health: Sexually Transmissible Diseases / Tuberculosis Contempt Proceedings
- ☐ Misdemeanor
- ☐ Involuntary Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators (formerly known as Jimmy Ryce)
- ☐ RICO
- ☐ Felony Second and Third Degree (includes Drug Court Division "Y")
- ☐ Felony First Degree and Life
- ☐ Capital First Degree Murder Lead Counsel
- ☐ Capital First Degree Murder Co-Counsel
- ☐ Capital Sexual Battery
- ☐ Criminal Appeals
- ☐ Non-Capital Post-Conviction Relief Motions



Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Court-Appointed Counsel Registry | Fiscal Years 2025-2026 & 2026-2027

Professional Requirements

Please initial next to each requirement indicating that you comply.

_____ I am a member in good standing with The Florida Bar.

_____ I have knowledge of the practices and procedures of the courts in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

_____ I have read and agree to comply with all requirements and sections of Administrative Order [S-2025-020](#) (Registry of Court-Appointed Counsel).

_____ I have read and agree to comply with all requirements of the [Dependency Court Hybrid Procedures](#), if applicable.

_____ I have read the eligibility requirements attached to this application and I am qualified for all Registry categories for which I am applying.

_____ I practice and maintain a principal office in Hillsborough County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, or Polk County, or have a location in Hillsborough County to meet with clients. *(Does not apply to appeal categories).*

_____ I have reviewed and understand the agreement for attorney's services located on the Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) website at www.JusticeAdmin.org and agree to comply with the JAC's requirements for billing.

_____ I will not solicit compensation from my clients, or their families, on cases for which I serve as Court-Appointed Attorney.

_____ I will notify the Chief Judge of any formal complaint filed by The Florida Bar against me; any non-confidential consent agreements entered into between me and The Florida Bar; any finding of ineffective assistance of counsel made by a judge or magistrate; any suspension or prohibition on the practice of law, including any suspension for failure to pay annual Bar dues or failure to maintain continuing legal education requirements; and any suspension or prohibition on accepting appointments.

**Fluent Foreign
Languages:**

JUVENILE REGISTRY APPLICATION CATEGORIES (page 1 of 3)

Select the category(ies) for which the applicant is seeking appointment

☐ **Juvenile Dependency**

Select applicant's qualifications for the Juvenile Dependency category:

- ☐ Practiced law for at least 3 years.

-AND-

- ☐ Former judge or general magistrate with at least 3 years of experience presiding over juvenile dependency cases; **or**
- ☐ Observed at least 30 hours of juvenile dependency hearings, which includes at least 6 shelter hearings, 3 dependency trials, and 1 TPR hearing (List hearings handled by the applicant on **Addendum "A"**); **or**
- ☐ Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 10 hearings in the juvenile dependency area, including at least 3 dependency adjudicatory hearings or TPR trials. (List hearings handled by the applicant on **Addendum "A"**).

-AND-

- ☐ Obtained at least 5 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in juvenile dependency law. (List course information on **Addendum "F,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

☐ **Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)**

Select applicant's qualifications for the TPR category:

- ☐ Practiced law for at least 5 years.

-AND-

- ☐ Former judge or general magistrate with at least 3 years of experience presiding over juvenile dependency cases; **or**
- ☐ Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 10 hearings in the juvenile dependency area, including at least 3 dependency adjudicatory hearings or TPR trials. (List hearings handled by the applicant on **Addendum "A"**).

-AND-

- ☐ Obtained at least 5 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in juvenile dependency law. (List course information on **Addendum "F,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

JUVENILE REGISTRY APPLICATION CATEGORIES (page 2 of 3)

Select the category(ies) for which the applicant is seeking appointment

☐ **Children with Special Needs**

Select applicant's qualifications for the Children with Special Needs category:

☐ Practiced law for at least 3 years or be working under the direct supervision of an attorney who has at least 3 years' experience.

-AND-

☐ Former judge or general magistrate with at least 3 years of experience presiding over juvenile dependency cases; **or**

☐ Counsel of record in at least 15 hearings in the juvenile dependency area, including at least 5 dependency adjudicatory hearings and at least 1 TPR trial. (List hearings handled by the applicant on **Addendum "A"**)

-AND-

☐ Familiarize himself or herself with (i) Chapter 39, Florida Statutes; (ii) the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure; and (iii) the Florida Guidelines of Practice for Lawyers who Represent Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases; **and**

☐ Obtained at least 10 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in the area of children with special needs **and** at least 1 CLE hour in ethics in child representation. (List course information on **Addendum "F,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

☐ **Juvenile Delinquency**

☐ **Juvenile Delinquency Contempt**

Select applicant's qualifications for the Juvenile Delinquency (including contempt proceedings) category:

☐ Practiced law for at least 3 years.

-AND-

☐ Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 1 juvenile delinquency trial and 3 juvenile delinquency dispositions (List hearings handled by the applicant on **Addendum "A"**);

-AND-

☐ Obtained at least 5 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in juvenile delinquency or criminal law. (List course information on **Addendum "F,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

JUVENILE REGISTRY APPLICATION CATEGORIES (page 3 of 3)

☐ **Judicial Waiver of Parental Notice of Abortion Act**

Select applicant's qualifications for the Judicial Waiver of Parental Notice of Abortion Act (including appeals) category:

☐ Practiced law for at least 3 years.

-AND-

☐ Obtained at least 5 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in the representation of minors in court proceedings;

-AND WHEN APPLICABLE-

☐ Obtained at least 5 CLE hours in appellate law for any attorney who is appointed to handle an appeal of a Judicial Waiver of Parental Notice of Abortion Act case. (List course information on **Addendum "F"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL APPEALS REGISTRY APPLICATION CATEGORIES

Select the categories for which the applicant is seeking appointment

☐ **Juvenile Dependency Appeals / Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Appeals**

☐ **Juvenile Delinquency Appeals**

Select applicant's qualifications for Juvenile Appeal categories:

☐ Board certification in appellate practice or practiced law for at least 5 years

-AND-

☐ Former staff attorney from a Florida appellate court with at least 12 months of experience in a position where the staff attorney worked directly on dependency and TPR appeals or delinquency appeals; **or**

☐ Handled at least 5 appellate cases. (List cases handled by the applicant on **Addendum "B"**)

-AND-

☐ Obtained at least 5 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in juvenile dependency law or juvenile delinquency law **and** at least 5 CLE hours in appellate law. (List course information on **Addendum "F,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

☐ **Criminal Appeals**

Select applicant's qualifications for the Criminal Appeals category:

☐ Board certification in criminal appellate law or board certification in appellate practice or practiced law for at least 7 years.

-AND-

☐ Former staff attorney from a Florida appellate court with at least 12 months of experience in a position where the staff attorney worked directly on criminal appeals; **or**

☐ Handled at least 5 criminal appellate cases. (List cases handled by the applicant on **Addendum "B"**)

-AND-

☐ Obtained at least 10 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in criminal law and procedure **and** at least 5 CLE hours in appellate law. (List course information on **Addendum "F,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

GUARDIANSHIP/MENTAL HEALTH REGISTRY APPLICATION CATEGORIES

Select the category(ies) for which the applicant is seeking appointment

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Protective Services (includes Appeals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Protective Services Contempt Proceedings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baker Act (includes Appeals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Baker Act Contempt Proceedings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental Disabilities (includes Appeals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental Disabilities Contempt Proceedings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guardianship (includes Appeals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Guardianship Contempt Proceedings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marchman Act (includes Appeals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Marchman Act Contempt Proceedings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually Transmissible Disease/Tuberculosis (includes Appeals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually Transmissible Disease/Tuberculosis Contempt Proceedings |

Select applicant's qualifications for Guardianship/Mental Health registry categories:

- ☐ Practiced law for at least 3 years.

-AND-

- ☐ Former judge or general magistrate with at least 3 years of experience presiding over guardianship or mental health cases; **or**
- ☐ Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 5 guardianship or mental health proceedings. (List proceedings handled by the applicant on **Addendum "C"**)

-AND-

- ☐ Obtained at least 5 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in guardianship or mental health law, which may have included courses approved by the chief judge for the satisfaction of the professional guardian education requirements in section 744.1085, Florida Statutes. (List course information on **Addendum "F,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

-AND WHEN APPLICABLE-

- ☐ Obtained at least 5 CLE hours in appellate law for any attorney who is appointed to handle an appeal of a guardianship / mental health case. (List course information on **Addendum "F,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

CRIMINAL REGISTRY APPLICATION CATEGORIES (page 1 of 2)

Select the category(ies) for which the applicant is seeking appointment

- ☐ First Degree and Life Felony
- ☐ RICO
- ☐ Capital Sexual Battery

Select applicant's qualifications for First Degree and Life Felony, RICO, and Capital Sexual Battery categories:

- ☐ Board certification in criminal trial law;

-OR-

- ☐ Practiced law for at least 5 years; **and**

- ☐ **First Degree and Life Felony**-Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 10 felony jury trials, 8 of which were tried to verdict, and 1 of which was a first degree or life felony offense. (List jury trials handled by the applicant on **Addendum "D"**)
- ☐ **RICO**- Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 10 felony jury trials, 8 of which were tried to verdict. (List jury trials handled by the applicant on **Addendum "D"**)
- ☐ **Capital Sexual Battery**- Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 10 felony jury trials, 8 of which were tried to verdict, and 2 of which was a first degree or life felony offenses. (List jury trials handled by the applicant on **Addendum "D"**)

-AND-

- ☐ Obtained at least 10 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in criminal law and procedure. **RICO** category must include at least 5 CLE hours pertaining to complex criminal cases. (List course information on **Addendum "F,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

- ☐ **Second and Third Degree Felony (includes Drug Court Division "Y")**
- ☐ **Non-Capital Post-Conviction Relief Motions**

Select applicant's qualifications for Second and Third Degree Felony and Non-Capital Post-Conviction Relief Motions categories:

- ☐ Board certification in criminal trial law;

-OR-

- ☐ Practiced law for at least 3 years; **and**
- ☐ Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 15 felony jury trials, 10 of which were tried to verdict. (List jury trials handled by the applicant on **Addendum "D"**)

CRIMINAL REGISTRY APPLICATION CATEGORIES (page 2 of 2)

(continuation of qualifications for Second and Third Degree Felony and Non-Capital Post-Conviction Relief Motions categories)

-OR-

- ☐ Practiced law for at least 5 years; **and**
- ☐ Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 10 felony jury trials, 8 of which were tried to verdict. (List jury trials handled by the applicant on **Addendum “D”**)

-AND-

- ☐ Obtained at least 10 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in criminal law and procedure. (List course information on **Addendum “F,”** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

☐ **Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators (formerly known as Jimmy Ryce Act)**

Select applicant’s qualifications for the Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators category:

- ☐ Practiced law for at least 3 years; **and**
- ☐ Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 3 criminal jury trials. (List jury trials handled by the applicant on **Addendum “D”**)

-AND-

- ☐ Obtained at least 5 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in criminal law and procedure, including at least 4 CLE hours pertaining to jury practice and procedure. (List course information on **Addendum “F,”** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

☐ **Misdemeanor**

Select applicant’s qualifications for the Misdemeanor category:

- ☐ Practiced law for at least 1 year; **and**
- ☐ Lead trial counsel or trial co-counsel in at least 1 criminal trial which was tried to verdict. (List trial handled by the applicant on **Addendum “D”**)

-AND-

- ☐ Obtained at least 5 CLE hours approved by The Florida Bar in criminal law and procedure. (List course information on **Addendum “F,”** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

**CAPITAL FIRST DEGREE MURDER LEAD COUNSEL AND CO-COUNSEL
(INCLUDING CAPITAL POST-CONVICTION RELIEF MOTIONS) REGISTRY APPLICATION CATEGORIES**

Select the category(ies) for which the applicant is seeking appointment

☐ **CAPITAL FIRST DEGREE MURDER LEAD COUNSEL**

Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.112(f) requires, among other criteria, prior experience as lead counsel in no fewer than 9 state or federal jury trials of serious and complex cases which were tried to completion, as well as prior experience as lead defense or co-counsel in 2 state or federal cases tried to completion in which the death penalty was sought. Of the 9 jury trials tried to completion, an applicant should have been lead counsel in at least 3 cases in which the charge was murder; or alternatively, of the 9 jury trials, at least 1 was murder and an additional 5 were felony jury trials. (List trials handled by the applicant on **Addendum "E"**)

-AND-

- ☐ Must have attended within the last 2 years, a CLE program of at least 12 hours devoted specifically to the defense of capital cases. (List course information on **Addendum "E,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

☐ **CAPITAL FIRST DEGREE MURDER CO-COUNSEL**

Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.112(g) requires, among other criteria, prior experience as lead counsel or co-counsel in no fewer than 3 state or federal jury trials of serious and complex cases which were tried to completion, at least 2 were trials in which the charge was murder; or alternatively, of the 3 jury trials, at least 1 was a murder trial and 1 was a felony jury trial. (List trials handled by the applicant on **Addendum "E"**)

-AND-

- ☐ Must have attended within the last 2 years, a CLE program of at least 12 hours devoted specifically to the defense of capital cases. (List course information on **Addendum "E,"** and provide proof of completion for CLE hours already obtained.)

ADDENDUM "A"

**List of cases/trials handled by applicant for the following juvenile registry categories:
TPR, Children with Special Needs, Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Delinquency Contempt,
Judicial Waiver of Parental Notification of Abortion Act**

Case Number	Case Style	Person Represented	County	Division/ Judge	Lead or Co-Counsel	Hearing/Trial Type

ADDENDUM "B"

**List of cases handled by applicant for the following appeal registry categories:
Juvenile Dependency and TPR Appeals, Juvenile Delinquency Appeals, Criminal Appeals**

Case Number	Filed Date	Case Style	County	Lower Tribunal Case No:	Disposed

ADDENDUM "C"

List proceedings handled by applicant for all Guardianship/Mental Health registry categories:

[illegible]

ADDENDUM "D"

**List of trial(s) handled by applicant for all criminal registry categories
(except Capital First Degree Murder Lead Counsel and Capital First Degree Murder Co-Counsel)**

Criminal Charge/ Degree	Case Number	Defendant Name	County	Division/ Judge	Lead or Co-Counsel	Trial Dates	Verdict

ADDENDUM "E"

**List of trials and CLE requirements for Capital First Degree Murder Lead Counsel and Co-Counsel
(including Capital Post-Conviction Relief Motions)**

List the appropriate number of jury trials handled by the applicant for the category(ies) selected.							
Criminal Charge	Case Number	Defendant Name	County	Division/ Judge	Lead or Co-Counsel	Trial Dates	Verdict

List the course information that qualifies the applicant for the CLE requirements for the category(ies) selected.			
Course Name	Location	Dates of Attendance	CLE Hours

ADDENDUM "F"
CLE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL REGISTRY CATEGORIES
(EXCEPT CAPITAL FIRST DEGREE MURDER LEAD COUNSEL AND CO-COUNSEL)

[illegible]



Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
Court-Appointed Counsel Registry | Fiscal Years 2025-2026 & 2026-2027

Attorney Certification

I hereby apply to have my name placed on the biennial Court-Appointed Counsel Registry for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in all categories for which I seek appointment. I certify that I meet all applicable eligibility requirements for appointment that are incorporated into this application.

I understand that in accordance with section 27.40(3), Florida Statutes, the chief judge intends to restrict the number of attorneys in all Registry categories. If I am selected for or listed on any Registry categories, I acknowledge that the Justice Administrative Commission will be responsible to pay my fees and costs for cases to which I am appointed, and that I must enter into a contract with the Justice Administrative Commission before I will be paid.

I declare and certify that I have read this entire application, Administrative Order S-2025-020, the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Dependency Court Hybrid Procedures (if applicable), including all professional and eligibility requirements and required addendum submissions, and that the facts stated therein are complete and true. I understand that any false, misleading, or incomplete response or declaration on this application may result in my application being deemed unqualified. If I am selected for or listed on any Registry category and any false, misleading, or incomplete response or declaration on this application is discovered after being selected or listed, I understand that I may be removed from the Registry and I may be subject to other appropriate sanctions.

Signature

Date

Completed applications must be submitted electronically to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit at COURT-APPOINTED-COUNSEL-REGISTRY@FLJUD13.ORG by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025.