

STATE OF FLORIDA
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Judge Mendoza confirmed for federal bench / Judge Wolfe to preside in Putnam County

Circuit Judge Carlos E. Mendoza, who presides over a felony division and serves as the administrative judge for Putnam County, was confirmed for a seat on the federal bench earlier this week. The U.S. Senate approved his nomination for the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida.

Judge Mendoza is expected to receive his Commission as a Federal Judge from the President early next week. His service for the Seventh Judicial Circuit would conclude in early July, after which he will be sworn in and will preside over cases in Orlando. (A brief biography of Judge Mendoza is included below).

Chief Judge Terence R. Perkins said of Judge Mendoza: "As proud as we are of his transition to the federal bench, I know that we will each miss him as a friend and colleague."

Circuit Judge Clyde E. Wolfe will take over the Putnam County criminal division on Aug. 4. Judge Wolfe currently presides over family law cases in St. Johns County and the St. Johns County Juvenile Drug Court. (A biography is also included)

"Judge Wolfe has many years of criminal law experience including many years in Putnam County and was the perfect selection for this division," said Chief Judge Perkins. "I know he will be as missed in St. Johns County as he will be welcomed in Putnam."

The expected vacancy for circuit judge will be filled through the appointment process. The Seventh Judicial Circuit Judicial Nomination Commission will conduct interviews and will choose a short list of candidates, from which Gov. Rick Scott will make the appointment.

BIOGRAPHIES

Circuit Judge Carlos E. Mendoza was appointed to the bench of the 7th Judicial Circuit in 2011. He earned both his undergraduate and juris doctor degrees from West Virginia University. Before becoming a judge, he served as assistant city attorney for the City of St. Augustine. He also served as a division chief for the Office of the State Attorney, Seventh Judicial Circuit; a specially appointed Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and a Judge Advocate in the United States Navy. Judge Mendoza enlisted in the United States Marine Corps upon graduating from high school and participated in combat operations during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Circuit Judge Clyde E. Wolfe was elected to the bench in 2006. Before becoming a judge, he was a general magistrate and child support enforcement hearing officer for the Seventh Judicial Circuit. He earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Florida and a juris doctor from Stetson University.