

## SUCCESSION OF JUSTICES OF SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

Compiled by Mary Agnes Thursby  
Revised by Jo Dowling & the Supreme Court Public Information Office  
Updated 6/24/2017

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
-------------------	--------------------	---------------------

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  
George G. McWhorter  
Augustus E. Maxwell  
Milton H. Mabry  
William A. Hocker  
William H. Ellis  
Elwyn Thomas  
Joseph A. Boyd, Jr.  
Gerald Kogan  
R. Fred Lewis

Ossian B. Hart  
Franklin Fraser  
Robert. B. VanValkenburgh  
Henry L. Mitchell  
Robert F. Taylor  
Louie W. Strum  
Fred H. Davis  
Roy H. Chapman  
E. Harris Drew  
Hal P. Dekle  
Alan C. Sundberg  
Leander J. Shaw, Jr.  
Kenneth B. Bell  
Ricky Polston

James D. Westcott, Jr.  
George P. Raney  
Benjamin S. Liddon  
Francis B. Carter  
Charles B. Parkhill  
*(There were only 5 Justices after he  
resigned in Jan. 1912 until Glenn  
Terrell was added May 15, 1923)*  
Glenn Terrell  
Richard W. Ervin  
Arthur J. England, Jr.  
Raymond Ehrlich  
Major B. Harding  
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

### 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

### 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  
C. Alan Lawson

**JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA**

<b><u>Justice (County)</u></b>	<b><u>Date Named to Court</u></b>	<b><u>Termination Date</u></b>
1 Thomas Douglas (St. Johns)	January 1846 Selected by legislature 1854 Elected	1851 Sept. 11, 1855 Died in office
2 Thomas Baltzell (Leon)	January 1846 Selected by legislature 1854 Elected	1851 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 July 1, 1887 Appointed	1866 Resigned 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 Appointed Nov. 13, 1967 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 Dean at Stetson (Law) July. 26, 1969 Died
47	Paul D. Barns (Dade)	Dec. 2, 1946 Elected & then appointed early		Sept. 1, 1949 Retired

48	T. Frank Hobson (Pinellas)	April 6, 1948	Appointed	Sept. 22, 1973	Died
				Feb. 13, 1962	Retired
49	B. K. Roberts (Leon)	Sept. 1, 1949	Appointed	Aug. 3, 1966	Died
				Nov. 30, 1976	Retired
50	John E. Mathews (Duval)	Oct. 23, 1951	Appointed & qualified	Oct. 30	
51	E. Harris Drew (Palm Beach)	Aug. 18, 1952	Appointed	Apr. 30, 1955	Died in office
				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
66	Frederick B. Karl (Leon)	Jan. 4, 1977	Elected	Apr. 5, 1978	Resigned, returned to private practice
				March 7, 2013	Died
67	James E. Alderman (St. Lucie)	Apr. 11, 1978	Appointed	Aug. 31, 1985	Resigned,

68	Parker Lee McDonald (Orange)	Oct. 26, 1979	Appointed	May 31, 1994	Retired	returned to private practice
69	Raymond Ehrlich (Duval)	Dec. 3, 1981	Appointed	June 24, 2017	Died	
70	Leander J. Shaw, Jr. (Duval)	Jan. 10, 1983	Appointed	Jan. 7, 1991	Retired	
71	Rosemary Barkett (Palm Beach)	Nov. 15, 1985	Appointed	July 12, 2005	Died	
72	Stephen H. Grimes (Polk)	Jan. 30, 1987	Appointed	Jan. 6, 2003	Could not run again	
73	Gerald Kogan (Dade)	Jan. 30, 1987	Appointed	Dec. 14, 2015	Died	
74	Major Best Harding (Duval)	Jan. 28, 1991	Appointed	Apr. 21, 1994	Resigned, appt'd to U.S. 11th Cir. Ct. of Appeals	
75	Charles T. Wells (Orange)	June 9, 1994	Appointed	Nov. 17, 1997	Mandatory retirement; returned to private practice	
76	Harry Lee Anstead (Palm Beach)	Aug. 29, 1994	Appointed	Dec. 31, 1998	Retired, returned to private practice	
77	<b>Barbara J. Pariente</b> (Palm Beach)	Dec. 10, 1997	Appointed	Aug. 31, 2002	Retired, returned to private practice	
78	<b>R. Fred Lewis</b> (Dade)	Dec. 7, 1998	Appointed	March 2, 2009	Mandatory retirement	
79	<b>Peggy A. Quince</b> (Hillsborough)	Dec. 8, 1998	Appointed	Jan. 5, 2009	Mandatory retirement	
80	Raoul G. Cantero (Dade)	July 10, 2002	Appointed			
81	Kenneth B. Bell (Escambia)	Dec. 30, 2002	Appointed			
82	<b>Charles T. Canady</b> (Polk)	Aug. 28, 2008	Appointed			
83	<b>Ricky Polston</b> (Jackson)	October 1, 2008	Appointed			
84	<b>Jorge Labarga</b> (Palm Beach)	January 2, 2009	Appointed			
85	James E.C. Perry (Seminole)	March 11, 2009	Appointed			
86	<b>C. Alan Lawson</b> (Orange)	Dec. 31, 2016	Appointed	Sept. 6, 2008	Resigned; returned to private practice	
				Oct. 1, 2008	Resigned; returned to private practice	
						On Ballot 2016
						On Ballot 2016
						On Ballot 2016
						Dec. 30, 2016 Mandatory retirement
						On Ballot 2018

\* **CURRENT JUSTICES IN BOLD**

## **Breakdown of Current Justices by Residence at Time of Appointment**

**First District:** Ricky Polston  
**Second District:** Peggy A. Quince, Charles T. Canady  
**Third District:** R. Fred Lewis  
**Fourth District:** Barbara J. Pariente, Jorge Labarga  
**Fifth District:** C. Alan Lawson

NOTE: The present Florida Constitution requires that, at any given time, at least one Justice must have been a resident 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. Under the current Court composition, an at-large seat would be vacant if one Justice from the Second or Fourth District left the Court. This is because each of these districts currently has two representatives. If a Justice representing the other three districts left the Court, the vacancy could only be filled by a qualified person living within the boundaries of that district.