



Supreme Court of Florida

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council of Business Partners will aid Access to Civil Justice efforts

Florida Chief Justice Jorge Labarga, chairman of the Commission on Access to Civil Justice, has named initial members to a Council of Business Partners to help and advise members of the Access Commission.

Labarga today has appointed by administrative order seven commissioners to the Commission, created by the Supreme Court to address the civil legal needs of disadvantaged, low- and moderate-income Floridians. The Council will work closely with the Commission's Executive Committee and Chairman Gregory W. Coleman. Labarga said the advisory council of business leaders is important.

"Employers, too, have a stake in this," Labarga said. "Employees who have challenges accessing justice have higher absenteeism and reduced productivity. It is in all our interests to address access to justice. This is why I am especially happy about the formation of the Council of Business Partners as essential partners in this effort and to announce its very talented membership."

Tere Blanca, president and CEO of Blanca Commercial Real Estate in Miami, will serve as liaison between the Council of Business Partners and the Commission on Access to Civil Justice.

In addition to Blanca, four other members of the Council have been named. They are:

- **David Faulkenberry**, president, FBMC Benefits Management, Inc., Tallahassee
- **Cathy Roth**, senior vice president of legal affairs and general counsel, Universal Parks & Resorts, Orlando
- **Byron Russell**, chair and CEO, Cheney Brothers, Inc., West Palm Beach
- **Lynne Wines**, Harvard University, Advanced Leadership fellow, Fort Lauderdale

The 21-member commission has staggered terms. Six commissioners appointed will serve terms to expire June 30, 2020, with another filling an unoccupied seat and serving until June 30, 2018. Named by administrative order to the Commission are:

- **Judge Timothy J. Corrigan**, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, Jacksonville, is re-appointed;
- **Thomas S. Edwards, Jr.**, attorney, Jacksonville, is re-appointed;
- **Alfredo Garcia**, St. Thomas University School of Law dean, Miami Gardens, is newly appointed,
- **Judge Robert Lee**, Broward County Court, Fort Lauderdale, is re-appointed;
- **Robin Hassler Thompson**, attorney, Tallahassee, is re-appointed;
- **William A. Van Nortwick**, attorney, Jacksonville, is re-appointed, and;
- **Blanca** is newly appointed to the commission. She fills a seat vacated by Jeffrey S. Craigmile.

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