



STATE OF FLORIDA
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Judges and Justices of the Florida Supreme Court, District Courts of Appeal, Circuit Courts, County Courts, and Senior Judges

FROM: Blan L. Teagle, Executive Director *BLT*

DATE: April 12, 2022

SUBJECT: JQC Financial Disclosure Reports for 2021

Copies of your financial disclosures for 2021 must be filed with the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC), pursuant to Canon 6 of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct. Separate filings of Forms 6 and 6A are required to be sent to the Florida Commission on Ethics. The Commission on Ethics will send a separate memo regarding its filing procedures.

The three forms listed below must be filed on or before, **July 1, 2022**.

1. **Form 6** "Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests"
File the form with the **Commission on Ethics** (utilizing whatever form/format the Commission on Ethics specifies). Send a complete **copy** to the **JQC**.
2. **Form 6A** "Disclosure of Gifts, Expense Reimbursements or Payments, and Waivers of Fees and Charges"
File the **original** form to the **Commission on Ethics**. Send a complete **copy** to the **JQC**.
3. **Form 6B** "Report of Business Interests"
Send the **original** to the **JQC only**. The Commission on Ethics does not receive this form.

JQC Filing Instructions:

Separately scan completed forms (6, 6A, and 6B) and email, in *.pdf* format, to Madeline Cook at mcook@floridajqc.com. We will acknowledge receipt by return e-mail.

This memo, along with Forms 6A and 6B, are being provided to the Chief Judge of each court for distribution to all judges. We are not providing Form 6 this year. See FAQ #1. This memo and its attachments may also be downloaded from the JQC's website at www.floridajqc.com.

Enclosures: Forms 6A, and 6B
FAQ

JQC Financial Disclosures Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What about electronic filing for Form 6?

As of the date of this memo, Form 6 must be filed electronically with the Commission on Ethics- but that could change in the near future. Read on:

The electronic filing system was launched by the Commission on Ethics in January of 2022. However, since that time, the Legislature passed HB 5003. Once signed into law, it will push the mandatory electronic filing of Form 6 to 2023 and require paper forms for the remainder of 2022.

Any Form 6 disclosures submitted electronically, prior to the bill being signed into law, will be deemed as fulfilling the 2021 financial disclosure requirement.

Immediately upon the Governor signing HB 5003, the Commission will publish paper versions of 2021 Form 6 on its website and the e-filing system will no longer be accessible to Form 6 filers. Any unsubmitted drafts in the system will no longer be accessible.

Questions about electronic filing? Call the Commission on Ethics or check their website for the latest news, at: (850) 488-7864 or <http://www.ethics.state.fl.us/>.

Bottom Line: The changes around filing Form 6 do not alter a judge's obligation to provide a *copy* of the completed Form 6 to the JQC.

Form 6 (paper filing)

If you are filing a paper copy, scan and email a copy of the completed form to JQC, before you mail it to Commission on Ethics.

Form 6 (electronic filing)

If you are filing Form 6 electronically with the Commission on Ethics, simply print, scan, and email a copy of the completed form to JQC.

2. Are scanned submissions considered "original" documents?

Yes. For Financial Disclosures, the JQC considers a digital submission as an original. Once your emailed filings have been received and acknowledged by JQC, you do not need to mail any hardcopies to JQC.

3. Do I have to file a Form 6A or 6B if I have not received any gifts, reimbursements, or do not hold any business interests?

Yes. All Judges must file all three forms, indicating "none" or "N/A" where appropriate.

4. Are Senior Judges required to file these disclosures?

Yes. Like active judges, Senior Judges who are eligible for recall are required to make these disclosures to both the JQC and the Commission on Ethics, regardless of whether they served during the reporting year.

5. What if I retired during, or at the the end of the reporting period (calendar year) and I am not seeking Senior Judge status?

You will need to make the appropriate disclosures if you were a judge during any part of the reporting period.

6. What if I cannot email the forms to JQC?

If you have a hardship, or are unable to use email, you may send your disclosures by US Mail to:

Judicial Qualifications Commission
Attn: Madeline Cook
P.O. Box 14106
Tallahassee, Florida 32317.

Please note: UPS and FedEx will not deliver to a P.O. Box.

7. What if I have specific questions about what I need to disclose?

The JQC and its staff cannot give advice on what to disclose, however there are several places where you can find additional information:

- Canons 5 & 6 of Florida Code of Judicial Conduct;
- Supreme Court Opinion SC18-648 (addressing reimbursements from State of Florida);
- JEAC Opinion 2018-07 (relating to gift and reimbursement disclosures on Form 6A);
- Questions for JEAC: jeac@flcourts.org

- The Florida Commission on Ethics: (850) 488-7864 or ethics.state.fl.us (as to Form 6)