

**Lewis, Debra**

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**From:** S. Cary Gaylord [cgaylord@gaylordmerlin.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2010 6:29 PM  
**To:** Wheeler, Rob  
**Subject:** Complaints of Mr. Gillespie re: 13th Circuit JNC

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

I am a member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission in Hillsborough County. Beginning in December, 2009 we began to receive numerous complaints from Mr. Gillespie and repetitive requests for records from our committee. The complaints from Mr. Gillespie initially involved an applicant for appointment, Mr. Chris Rodems, and then expanded to include a member of his firm, Chris Barker, who is also a member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit JNC. Finally, Mr. Gillespie filed complaints against our committee chair, Mr. Pedro Bajo. All of these complaints have resulted in our committee spending substantial time interviewing and investigating Mr. Rodems and considering all the issues raised in his complaints. I have personally spoken with Mr. Gillespie, with judges presiding over various cases mentioned in his complaints and with other lawyers who have been involved in litigation mentioned by Mr. Gillespie and involving Mr. Rodems. After hours of personal work and after hearing from other members of the committee who have done similar work, I am convinced that all of Mr. Gillespie's complaints against Mr. Rodems, Mr. Barker and Mr. Bajo are completely without merit. Mr. Barker has voluntarily removed himself from the interview process and no reasonable person could find any actions of Mr. Barker to have been improper.

Because of Mr. Gillespie's complaints, Mr. Bajo has spent an extraordinary amount of time responding to letters, e-mails, phone calls and visits from Mr. Gillespie. I have served on this committee for more than 10 years and I have never seen any issue consume so much of a chairman's time. Throughout this process Mr. Bajo has done an exceptional job as chairman and his work and demeanor have reflected well on the process, our committee and on Governor Crist for having chosen him for this position. I sincerely hope that Mr. Bajo will be reappointed to this committee. We were fortunate to have someone willing to work as hard as he has during the period of these complaints.

If you have any questions about anything related to this matter I would be glad to answer them.

Sincerely,

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Chief Inspector General

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