

17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF
FLORIDA
BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
201 S.E. 6TH STREET, SUITE 20170
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301



TRIAL COURT
ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
SALLIE JAMES, PUBLIC
INFORMATION OFFICER
(954) 831-7559
SJAMES@17TH.FLCOURTS.ORG

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Governor Appoints Assistant U.S. Attorney as 17th Judicial Circuit's Newest Judge

Fort Lauderdale, FL – The 17th Judicial Circuit is pleased to announce that Assistant U.S. Attorney Johnathan D. Lott will fill the vacancy left by Circuit Judge John Murphy III, who resigned on August 1st after 20 years on the bench.

Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Lott to the vacancy on Nov. 25th.

“Judge Lott will serve the 17th Judicial Circuit with distinction and we welcome him aboard,” said Chief Judge Jack Tuter. “Judge Lott will take Judge Francis Viamontes division in the Family court and begin his service on January 1, 2025.”

Judge Viamontes will move to a felony criminal division.

Originally from Pensacola, Judge Lott is a 2014 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School and a member of the Florida Bar Young Lawyers section. The Fort Lauderdale resident has worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office four years where he is assigned to the civil division.

“I am honored to have been appointed by the Governor to the Seventeenth Circuit Court,” Judge Lott said. “I have spent most of my career in public service, and look forward to this new and exciting opportunity to serve the people of Broward County.”

ABOUT THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida is the court for Broward County, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, FL. It is the second largest circuit court in the state. Broward County has 90 judges. Of those, 32 are county court judges and 58 are circuit judges. Four courthouses comprise the 17th circuit and include the Broward County Courthouse in Fort

Lauderdale, and three satellite courthouses: the North Regional Courthouse in Deerfield Beach, the West Regional Courthouse in Plantation and the South Regional Courthouse in Hollywood.

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