



## 5/26/2020 Governor's Press Conference (@ 12 PM from Miami)

**Governor DeSantis:** Announces appointments of new Supreme Court Justices - Judge Renatha Francis & Judge John Couriel. He noted it was a testament to legal talent in South FL that so many justices have come from the region. Both appointees have young families.

- Judge Renatha Francis - first Caribbean-American to serve on the FL Supreme Court (and possibly any state supreme court); strictly against judicial activism; will ascend to Court in September. Raised in Jamaica by a single mother and moved to US where she graduated from college with honors and held several positions prior to her current appointment; DeSantis stated her story is emblematic of the American Dream.
- Judge John Couriel - son of Cuban exiles; high-profile private litigator; Recommended by Sen. Tom Cotton, Jeb Bush, and Judge Altman. Exemplifies Cuban American community in South FL with dedication to democratic self government and the Constitution. Will be giving up a lucrative job in order to serve.

### Q&A:

- **On RNC coming to Florida:** says he would love to have the convention in Florida if Trump moves it from North Carolina; would welcome the DNC too; the pandemic made FL lose out on a lot of money so the RNC would be good to help recover that money; could be in Miami, Orlando, Jax, or elsewhere
- When the smaller 64 counties have cases, mostly in prisons or migrant worker communities; low positivity rates all around, even in SE FL
  - Haven't seen major overflow into hospitals; has empowered local officials, especially in South FL
  - Virus was never going to impact FL uniformly, especially since many New Yorkers fled to South FL during the height of pandemic
- **CARES Act Funding:** CARES funding should be flexible and can be used to pay salaries for first responders
  - Will continue to be more flexible; in FL, between \$4.5-5B for all counties & cities that didn't get it directly; working on guidelines that if cities are using it and didn't qualify for it, then the state will be penalized; doesn't apply to direct recipients such as Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, etc.
- Testing capacity exceeds demand; Broward sites are around 90% capacity, Dade around 50% and Panhandle is very low; anyone can get tested even without symptoms; more serological testing is being done, which is showing a lower fatality rate

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- Last week CDC estimated infection mortality rate, including asymptomatic carriers to be .26%; bottom line is that testing is crucial and has been ramped up; last week there were days with 75,000 test results; 20,000 this morning.