# JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT

NOVEMBER 23, 2026



## Christopher D. Small

**County Judge, Lake County**

Judge Christopher D. Small was appointed to the Lake County bench by Governor Ron DeSantis in November 2026.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Small served for more than 15 years as an Assistant State Attorney in the Fifth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office in Tavares, where he prosecuted criminal cases on behalf of the State of Florida.

Earlier in his legal career, he served as a felony public defender in Florida's Eighth Judicial Circuit, providing him with valuable experience on both sides of the criminal justice system.

Judge Small earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond School of Law in 1997 and was admitted to The Florida Bar in 2006. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Duke University.

Throughout his legal career, Judge Small has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service, the fair administration of justice, and the rule of law. As a member of the judiciary, he brings extensive courtroom experience, a balanced legal perspective, and a dedication to upholding the Constitution and applying the law impartially.

Judge Small began his service on the bench on November 23, 2026.