

Judicial Selection Commission

At a Glance

ROBERT BELLO, Esq., Chairperson

Established - 1986

Statutory authority – Connecticut General Statute Sec. 51-44(a)

Office address – 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Number of employees – 1 full-time

Recurring operating expenses – Personnel, \$73,479; Other Expenses, \$8,618

Organizational structure – The Commission is comprised of twelve Commissioners appointed by the following appointing authorities: Six Commissioners are appointed by the Governor; 1 Commissioner is appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; 1 Commissioner is appointed by the Senate Majority Leader; 1 Commissioner is appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; 1 Commissioner is appointed by the Speaker of the House; 1 Commissioner is appointed by the House Majority Leader; and 1 Commissioner is appointed by the House Minority Leader. Six Commissioner positions are for attorneys; and six Commissioner positions are for public members. No more than 6 Commissioners may be from a single political party. No Commissioner can be an elected or appointed State official or hold a statewide political party office.

Mission

The Judicial Selection Commission's mission is to evaluate, investigate and recommend qualified candidates for consideration by the Governor for nomination as judges of the Superior Court, the Appellate Court, and the Supreme Court.

Statutory Responsibility

The Commission's statutory responsibility is to administer and enforce the provisions of Connecticut General Statute Section 51-44a. Under that section, the Commission has the responsibility of seeking qualified candidates for consideration by the Governor for nomination as judges for the Superior Court, Appellate Court, and Supreme Court. All candidates seeking consideration for appointment to judicial office, including incumbent judges seeking reappointment, or appointment to a different court, are required to complete the appropriate application forms which are promulgated by the Commission. The Commission conducts an investigation and evaluation of each candidate for judicial office, including judges seeking

reappointment, or appointment to a different court. The Commission contacts the Bar Associations, judges, and attorneys concerning candidates for judicial appointment in order to conduct its investigation and evaluation. For judges, the Commission contacts The Judicial Review Council, the Governor's Office, the Office of Chief Court Administrator, and the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association. In addition, the Commission posts notices in the courts of Connecticut to encourage public comment before conducting its interviews.

Public Service

The Commission received 24 applications from candidates for judicial office; 19 applications from judges seeking reappointment to the same court; and 8 applications from judges seeking appointment to a different court. The Commission held 10 meetings. Of the 24 candidates who applied to the Commission for judicial office, 12 candidates were recommended by the Commission to the Governor. Of the 19 judges who applied to the Commission for reappointment to the same court, 19 judges were recommended by the Commission to the Governor. Of the 8 judges who applied to the Commission for reappointment to a different court, 4 judges were recommended by the Commission to the Governor.

Improvements/Achievements FY 2016-2017

New Appointees

Governor Malloy appointed a new Chairman of the Commission, Robert Bello. House Majority Leader Matt Ritter appointed a new Commissioner, Gregory Davis.

Outreach Program for Connecticut Bar Associations

The Judicial Selection Commission conducted an outreach event at Shipman & Goodwin for the following Connecticut Bar Associations: The George Crawford Black Bar (Crawford); The South Asian Bar Association (SABAC); the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA), and the Connecticut Asian Pacific Bar Association (CAPABA). The Commission strives to ensure diversity of practice in geography, race, gender, religion, etc.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute

The Commission operates, and will continue to operate in conformance with Sec. 51-44(a) inclusive of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

Membership – Robert Bello, Esq., Chairperson; Joel Rudikoff, Esq., Vice Chairperson, Frank Alvarado, Audrey Blondin, Esq., Rev. Lindsay Curtis, Gregory Davis, Esq., Sarah Fryxell, Esq., Clifford Leach, Esq., Joseph McGee, Cara Passaro, Phillip Ryan, and Pamela Sawyer