

# 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, \$ 72,679; Other Expenses, \$ 9,418**

***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. 6 Commissioner positions are for attorneys; and 6 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 30 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 8 meetings. Of the 30 candidates who applied to the Commission for judicial office, 27 candidates were recommended by the Commission to the Governor. Of the 7 judges who applied to the Commission for reappointment to the same court, 7 judges were recommended by the Commission to the Governor. Of the 17 judges who applied to the Commission for reappointment to a different court, 14 judges were recommended by the Commission to the Governor.

## **Improvements/Achievements FY 2017-2018**

### ***New Appointees***

Governor Dannel Malloy appointed new Commissioners Peter Smith and William Conti. Speaker of the House, Joe Aresimowicz, appointed a new Commissioner, Jonathan Ferrigno. Senate President Pro Tempore, Martin Looney appointed a new Commissioner, Rosemarie Paine. Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff appointed a new Commissioner, Paul Mounds, Jr.

### ***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; Gregory Davis, Esq., Vice Chairperson, William Conti, Esq., Jonathan Ferrigno, Sarah Fryxell, Esq., Vacancy, Clifford Leach, Esq., Joseph McGee, Paul Mounds, Jr., Rosemarie Paine, Phillip Ryan, Vacancy, and Peter Smith