

Judicial Selection Commission

At-a-Glance Section

CHARLES E. TIERNAN, III, 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, \$ 67,793; Other Expenses, \$ 11,071

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 51-44(a). 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 Statewide Grievance Panel, 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, the Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly, 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 of judges seeking reappointment.

Public Service

The Commission to date for 2019 has received 30 applications from candidates for judicial office; 13 applications from judges seeking reappointment to the same court; and 8 applications from judges seeking appointment to a different court. The Commission held 9 meetings. Of the 30 candidates who applied to the Commission for judicial office, 16 candidates were recommended by the Commission to the Governor. Of the 13 judges who applied to the Commission for reappointment to the same court, 13 judges were recommended by the Commission to the Governor. Of the 8 judges who applied to the Commission for reappointment to a different court, 6 judges were recommended by the Commission to the Governor.

Improvements/Achievements FY 2018-2019

New Appointees

Governor Ned Lamont appointed a new Commissioner, Charles E. Tiernan, III. Previous Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed two new Commissioners, James Sullivan and William Welz. Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff appointed a new Commissioner, Kenneth Saccente. Senate Minority Leader Len Fasano appointed Edward Lennon. House Minority Leader Themis Klarides appointed a new Commissioner, Scott Storms.

LEAN Process for Application Distribution

The Judicial Selection Commission conducted a LEAN process to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission. The past practice was to mail out packets of information for each applicant to the individual Commissioners. This was costing the agency copious amounts of money in postage and supplies, in addition to having a detrimental effect on the environment with the amount of paper that was needed for the packets. With the retirement of the old manager, there was a surplus in the budget enough to cover the purchase of tablets for the Manager and each Commissioner. Candidate information is now securely emailed to the Commissioner's tablets allowing for easier access and more efficient transfer of information.

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 – Charles E. Tiernan, III., Chairperson; Gregory Davis, Esq., Vice Chairperson, William Conti, Esq., Edward Lennon, Joseph McGee, Rosemarie Paine, Kenneth Saccente, Peter Smith, Scott Storms, James Sullivan, and William Welz.