

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 2020 has received 34 applications from candidates for judicial office; no applications from judges seeking reappointment to the same court (all those heard this year were submitted in 2019); and 8 applications from judges seeking appointment to a different court. The Commission held 5 meetings in 2020 so far. Of the 34 candidates who applied to the Commission for judicial office, the Commission recommended 3 candidates to the Governor; the others still need to be scheduled for an interview. Of the 18 judges who applied to the Commission for reappointment in 2019 to the same court, the Commission recommended 18 judges to the Governor. Of the 8 judges who applied to the Commission for elevation to a different court, the Commission recommended 6 judges to the Governor.

Improvements/Achievements FY 2018-2019

New Appointees

House Majority Leader Matthew Ritter appointed Annette Sanderson to serve on the Commission. Rose Marie Paine was elected to serve as the Vice Chairperson for the Commission.

Adapting to COVID-19

The Commission has continued to meet throughout the public health emergency this year. All members have adapted to remote meetings using Microsoft Teams and well as other platforms.

Savings from LEAN Initiatives

Last year, the Commission did a LEAN initiative to minimize the use of paper that was being used in the office. The Commission was expecting a significant savings from the initiative. Even we were surprised that the result was over \$25,000 saved in the agency budget.

New Office Address

By the end of 2020, the Judicial Selection Commission will be moving into the State Office Building at 165 Capitol Ave, Hartford.

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; Rose Marie Paine, Vice Chairperson, William Conti, Esq., Edward Lennon, Joseph McGee, Kenneth Saccente, Annette Sanderson, Peter Smith, Scott Storms, James Sullivan, and William Welz